



# UNITED EFFORT TO BOOST TRADE

Report by Jessica Labhart

**BUSINESS** leaders and councillors have welcomed a move that should see trade in Halesowen benefit from hundreds of thousands of pounds thanks to a new levy.

The Halesowen Business Improvement District (BID) aims to raise money each year to boost trade in the town via special events and other ways to promote the town centre.

The voluntary BID scheme, which has now been approved by Dudley Council bosses, will see firms encouraged to join forces to create a single company, with each member paying a levy – a small percentage of a business's rateable value – to finance BID.

Members will then get to decide how the money is spent and the cash can be used to fund special events, improve security as well as promote the town and make it more attractive.

The proposal, put forward by Halesowen BID organisers, supported by the Halesowen Chamber of Trade and other organisations, estimates that approximately £120,000 each year could be generated via the levy.

Business owners in the town will now be encouraged to vote for the introduction of the levy, with councillors to visit them in the coming weeks at their premises to go through the plans. A business plan will also be circulated to owners to enable them to see how money from the levy can be used for the benefit of all.

## Initiative

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, Dudley's cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "I'm absolutely thrilled that the proposal has been given the go-ahead. It's just so fantastic to see that the council has taken the initiative to improve the local area to invest in their town and to increase the footfall."

"The BID levy will give businesses the opportunity, the power, to harness money in their area for their area."

"Halesowen is the first township in the district to take on the BID and I hope that others will soon follow suit to improve their areas and really take ownership of their towns."

Steve Fitzpatrick, vice chair of the Halesowen Chamber of Trade said: "We're absolutely over the moon. This is a real step forward for the town centre. I would encourage business owners to back the BID and make Halesowen the first town in Dudley to adopt the levy."

## CRAZY MOTORIST DICES WITH DEATH ON CROSSING



The shocking moment the driver decides to speed through the Langley Green level crossing as the barriers come down

THIS is the jaw-dropping moment an impatient driver recklessly sped across a level crossing in the Black Country just as the safety barriers were going down.

The driver of a silver Citroen is seen weaving between the barriers at Langley Green level crossing near Oldbury. The crazy manoeuvre saw the car narrowly miss two barriers as they were lowered.

Network Rail has hit out at the motorist and warned of the dangers of ignoring safety at crossings.

It has so far been unable to identify the

driver dicing with death in the video, which recorded the highly dangerous incident on February 3.

Ben Parish, route level crossing manager for Network Rail, said: "This selfish driver had callous neglect for the safety of themselves and others by ignoring the barriers and signals."

"Level crossing barriers and warning lights are there to help road users, pedestrians and railway users stay safe. Misusing crossings in this way could result in serious injury or worse. I can't emphasise strongly enough the

importance of sensible level crossing use. If anyone has any concerns about a level crossing I would urge them to contact us."

Inspector Dave Rams, from British Transport Police in Birmingham, said: "Busier level crossings have warning lights and ignoring them is dealt with the same as ignoring a red traffic light. You risk losing your licence, a £1,000 fine and, in the most serious cases, charges such as dangerous driving."

To report railway crime call 03457114141. See the video at [www.expressandstar.com/news](http://www.expressandstar.com/news)

## COURT

### Family fight on to clear son's name

THE family of a Brierley Hill man who was convicted over his girlfriend's death in Crete will go to the High Court in an effort to clear his name.

A coroner last month insisted he could not go against the ruling of a Greek court that Luke Walker, 29, had assaulted Chelsea Hyndman before she died.

But the family have vowed to fight on. They will now go to the High Court to challenge the verdict, a move which could lead to a fresh inquest into the death of Miss Hyndman, 20. Mr Walker claims her death was caused by a fall.

## STABBING

### Murder charge after woman killed

A MAN charged with murdering his partner is due to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Monday.

Ronald Cooke, aged 54, of Granville Road, Old Hill, will appear before the court again next week, following the incident on February 6 when 54-year-old Tina Billingham died after arriving at a doctor's surgery in Rowley Regis with stab injuries.

A post mortem confirmed that she had died as a result of stab wounds to the chest and to the stomach.

## COUNCIL

### Price hike for bulky waste collection

DUDLEY Council charges for special waste collections of furniture and white goods are set to rise by 10 per cent.

If approved, from April it will cost nearly £50 to have large items of furniture removed through the council's commercial and domestic waste service. According to the council's figures it currently costs them £135,000 per year to clear furniture through the collection service, which generates just £63,000.

Councillor Hilary Bills said: "We looked at what other councils and private sector companies were charging. Our prices are competitive."

## INSIDE

### PIGEON RACER'S AFRICAN COUP



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# Hunt for on-the-run imam is stepped up



Hafiz Rahman fled the country

THE hunt for an imam who went on the run before being convicted of indecently assaulting two young girls at his mosque has been stepped up as files were passed to extradition experts.

Hafiz Rahman, aged 58, of Ballard Road, Netherton, was sentenced to 11-and-a-half years in prison in his absence after claiming he was too ill to attend court in October. However, he fled to Bangladesh the next day and has been on the run ever since.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said it is still working to track down

Rahman and its extradition team was now involved in trying to locate him.

Rahman had been working at Queens Cross mosque in Cradley Heath in the 1980s when the abuse took place.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard he assaulted two young girls at the mosque.

CPS spokesman Vinny Bolina said: "The files have been sent to the extradition units to be assessed."

Police chiefs were left red-faced when the imam fled the country while awaiting sentence.

Rahman boarded a flight to Bangladesh on October 8.

But Judge Nicholas Cartwright said during sentencing: "There was no need to be suspicious that he would not attend his sentencing hearing so no warrant was issued for his arrest after he was convicted."

One of his victims said: "For me, this is over now. I just hope the police can get him back here. His life is over and mine is just going to start. I know the police will do everything they can to try and catch him."

# New rule means 'death knell for social housing'

**PEOPLE aged under 35 and reliant on benefits will not be able to afford rent for any council home in Sandwell after new welfare reforms come into force.**

The revelation has been described as 'the death knell of social housing' by a leading councillor.

Under Government plans, housing benefit is to be capped at the Local Housing Allowance rate, which for single people under 35 means they will receive £60 per week. However the cheapest council properties in Sandwell cost £75 a week, meaning those who rely on benefits will be left with a shortfall.

Chairman of the Sandwell Council's housing scrutiny board Councillor Peter Hughes said: "This is going to have a drastic effect on the people we serve. Effectively people under 35 are simply not going to be able to afford any of the properties that we have, and if they take them then they will very soon be arrears."

"We are going to have to say to the under 35s, that if they are going to be taking a property of any kind then they need to be in employment."

He added: "Before being a councillor I was a housing manager for 40 years. To me this is the death knell of social housing."

## Signed

Although this housing benefit cap won't come into force until April 2018, it will affect those who are still under 35 and single at that time, and signed their tenancy after April last year.

Currently Sandwell Council generates around 450 single person tenancies every year where the applicant is under 35.

Moreover approximately 60 per cent of the council's stock of flats has an age restriction, including 3,200 one bedroom flats and 2,000 two bedroom flats currently unavailable to persons below the age of 40.

"I think it's quite obvious that we need to adapt our service," said Councillor Hughes. "Often it is the under 35s who are most in need of social housing, sometimes following the breakdown in relationships or in their families. Others may have left the care sector."

Under the new national housing benefit policy, most single under 35s will only be eligible for the shared accommodation rate.

## Homegrown actress returns to Rep



**Actress Josie Lawrence is returning home to the West Midlands to appear in a play at Birmingham Rep**

BLACK Country actress Josie Lawrence will return to Birmingham Repertory Theatre this month to star in a play rarely performed in the UK.

The Old Hill-born performer will be in Eugene Ionesco's absurdist play, *Amédée*, alongside Trevor Fox. It tells the story of a frustrated playwright, his wife, their very big secret, and what happens when they try to get rid of it.

It runs at Birmingham Rep in Centenary Square from February

24 to March 11 and is directed by the Rep's artistic director Roxana Silbert, who said: "Josie Lawrence and Trevor Fox capture the despair and absurdity of Ionesco's loveable, frustrating characters."

"The play is about the things that you don't talk about but really should confront. Written just after the Second World War, it captures the struggle of two ordinary people trying to survive personal chaos surrounded by political upheaval and where suspicion is rife."

Miss Lawrence has previously taken lead roles in The Rep's productions of *The Cherry Orchard*, *Hapgood* and *Frozen*. She began her career at the Barlow Theatre in Oldbury and went on to perform with the Royal Shakespeare Company, finding fame in 1990s improvisation comedy TV show *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* and later had a major role in *EastEnders*.

For tickets call the box office on 0121 2364455 or visit [www.birmingham-rep.co.uk](http://www.birmingham-rep.co.uk) website.

# Teaching assistants facing axe

TEACHING assistants who work with special needs children are facing the axe at a secondary school in Quarry Bank.

Thorns Community College, which has more than 1,000 pupils, has launched a consultation on making around 18 support staff redundant.

But some parents say they have not been told how their children will be affected.

The school is in 'special measures' after being rated 'inadequate' last year by school inspectors.

School leaders say the job cuts had been put forward because of a budget deficit at the school but a campaign has been launched to try to save the teaching assistants, who parents say are relied upon by the most vulnerable pupils.

Parents are unhappy that it is teaching assistants who have been put in the firing line, particularly those parents whose children require extra support.

Acting headteacher Gary Baker said these children would continue to receive the support they need.

Dennis Hodson, chairman of the governors, said: "As is the case with many schools nationally, Thorns Community College is facing a significant budget deficit."

"Unfortunately rising costs and reduced budgets have impacted on several schools in the area and in the country."

## Restructure

"As a result of this deficit the college's Governing Body has decided that it is necessary to consult on a staffing restructure. The restructure potentially affects support staff."

"We are currently engaged in a consultation period amongst our staff and unions to ensure that we address this in the most effective way and limit any impact on our students. Staffing restructures are never easy and these are difficult times."

A letter to parents was sent out on Friday after the school was contacted by The Chronicle's sister newspaper the Express & Star.

A parent of a pupil with cerebral palsy, who did not want to give her name, said: "We have only just found out about the consultation. My daughter won't be able to go to school. If she has a seizure there will be nobody to attend to her."

"Some of these staff have been there for 20 years. I'm really worried my child won't be able to attend."

It comes during a turbulent period for the secondary school which plunged into special measures last July following a damning Ofsted report.

# Man badly hurt in fall from a scooter

A MAN in his 20s was left with a serious head injury after falling from a scooter in Halesowen last Thursday.

The unconscious rider was given trauma care from ambulance staff before being taken to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

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# Police break drug ring and crooks now face justice



Albert Morris – put behind bars

A MAN from Dudley who was part of a £300,000 drugs ring has been jailed. Albert Morris, aged 20, of Crescent Road, Netherton, was given four years and two months for conspiracy to supply heroin and crack cocaine.

Morris was part of a Black Country based gang involved in supplying crack cocaine and heroin from Wolverhampton into Kidderminster and Stratford-upon-Avon.

Police chiefs said the convictions were the result of a complex investigation lasting 18 months. Eight of the drugs gang beginning time behind bars were from Wolverhampton.

Gang kingpin Michael Porter, from Adey Road, Ashmore Park, was jailed for 20 years after being found guilty of four counts of conspiracy to supply heroin and crack cocaine as well as assault and money laundering.

Christopher Cork, 52, of Waterloo Road, got six years and eight months for conspiracy to supply heroin and crack cocaine. Natasha Frazer, 34, of Chevill Rise, Heath Town, got three years and four months for conspiracy to supply heroin and crack cocaine and money laundering.

Dirk Johannes Howell, 35, of Kingsway Road, Fallings Park, received 22 months and Dale Cooke, 22, of Cadle Road, Low Hill, three years and eight months for the same class A drugs charge.

Junior Evans, 21, of Frost Street, Monmore Green, got four years and eight months for conspiracy to supply heroin and crack cocaine. Luke Stephenson, 28, from Hobgate Road, Heath Town, got four years and six months and Michael Carter, 29, of Prosser Street, Park Village, three years and four months for the same offence.

Two men from the Stratford area were also jailed and another two were released due to time served but got electronic tags.

# Helpers needed for litter picking

A COUNCILLOR is appealing for help with a litter pick on Sunday in Halesowen. Councillor Stuart Henley will be at Hurst Green and volunteers can meet him at 10am at shops by The Full Moon pub.

# Mayor hopefuls relishing E&S debate



CANDIDATES to be the first elected West Midlands Mayor who welcomed the chance to go head-to-head in a public debate hosted by the Express & Star.

The five hopefuls will outline their policies and be quizzed in a Question Time-style event at the Black Country Living Museum's Workers' Institute next month, chaired by Editor Keith Harrison.

It will be the first of four major hustings hosted by regional newspapers and will be on March 7.

The public goes to the polls on

May 4 to elect the Metro Mayor who will have responsibility over economic growth, housing, transport, mental health and skills.

Labour's candidate Siôn Simon, an MEP and former Birmingham MP, said: "This election is our chance to finally start taking back control of the West Midlands from London."

Conservative candidate Andy Street, who left his £1 million job at John Lewis to run, said: "I relish the opportunity to debate with the other candidates the issues fac-

ing the region and how I plan to go about tackling them as Mayor."

Ukip candidate Pete Durnell, from Warley, said: "The new West Midlands Metro Mayor will be instrumental in shaping future strategic plans for the region." Lib Dem candidate Beverley Nielsen, a director at Birmingham City University, added: "I welcome these debates." And Green Party candidate James Burn, a Birmingham city councillor, said: "These events are a great opportunity for people to hear more about each candidates' proposals."

# Plea as missing woman becomes a grandmother

A FRESH appeal has been launched to trace a Dudley mother who has been missing for almost 20 years – so she can meet her newborn granddaughter.

Police and relatives of Patricia Lashley, from Dudley, are asking for new information that could assist with the on-going investigation into her disappearance.

The mother-of-seven was last seen at her flat in Hall Street, Dudley, in September 1998.



Patricia Lashley

before Christmas.

He said: "My last memory of mum was when I was eight years old and I was sitting talking to her in my nan's garden but with each year that passes that memory becomes more faded."

"I would love for mum to meet her granddaughter. Family is so important to us."

Patricia was described as white, 5ft 4ins tall, slim, with mousy brown hair and she spoke with a Geordie accent. She had moved to Dudley three years before her disappearance and was known to visit the No Limits club.

Despite officers carrying out a series of searches and trawling a mass of information they remain unable to trace Patricia, who may also have used the surname Bradford and first names of Jade, Vanessa Tricia.

Detective Inspector Richard Jones, of Dudley Police, said: "We believe people may remember Pat, she was very well known locally, and may be able to provide new and important information."

"We have not heard from her in over 18 years, she has not appeared on any government systems, claimed any benefits or used any bank accounts. Pat's sister and children were distressed and bewildered by her disappearance and still desperately want to know what has happened to her." Anyone with any information can call police on 101.



Patricia Lashley's son Sinan wants his missing mother to meet baby Shakira and his wife Jade

# Work may start on starter homes in summer

MORE than 60 starter homes aimed at helping first-time buyers to get on the property ladder are set to be built on the former sites of four education centres across Dudley borough.

The original buildings, which include Amblecote House and the Mere Centre in Stourbridge, have already been demolished.

Council bosses said they were hopeful of getting planning per-

mission for the homes by April with work would likely get under way in the summer.

The other two sites earmarked for homes are in Beechwood Road and Wrens Nest Road, Dudley.

The authority was granted £625,000 in funding under the Government's Starter Homes scheme which will see the dis-

used buildings replaced with a total of 79 properties, 62 of which will be starter homes.

These will be made available for first-time buyers aged between 23 and 40 who will be able to get them at a 20 per cent discount.

The scheme is part of the Government's push to create more new homes at realistic prices for young couples across the coun-

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Woman charged in link to killing

POLICE investigating the death of Birmingham teenager Kenichi Phillips have charged a Dudley woman with assisting an offender.

Shalana Samuels, of Elmbridge Way, Dudley, has been bailed to appear before Walsall magistrates on March 10. Samuels, aged 24, has also been charged with two unrelated counts of possession with intent to supply drugs.

Mr Phillips died after being shot in Ladywood in March 2016. Disharn Downie, of Gravel Bank, Bartley Green is serving life for murder.

## Cheaper quicker planning proposed

RESIDENTS in Dudley looking to extend their homes could soon benefit from a faster, lower cost service.

Dudley Local Planning Authority is proposing to introduce a local development order (LDO), which would permit small household extensions without the need for planning permission.

Instead of applying for planning permission, residents would need to apply for written confirmation the development meets the LDO criteria.

The two-week process would be quicker and cheaper.

## Traders face hike in licence charges

DUDLEY Council bosses are proposing to increase the licence fees paid by traders and businesses across the borough within the next few months.

The authority has drawn up proposals to raise the amount charged by five per cent from April.

Bosses say a five per cent rise would mean street traders would pay £656 a year rather than £625.

The measure would also affect have an impact on sex shops and casinos.

## Action at the heart of hospital's charity run

THERE are just over two weeks to go until an annual charity run sets off from Russells Hall Hospital.

The Action Heart event, which starts and finishes at the Dudley hospital, is now in its 27th year, and raises thousands of pounds for the Dudley-based cardiac rehabilitation programme.

Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Mohammed Hanif and his wife, Mayor-ess, Zabeeda Khanam will officially start the event at 9.30am on March 5.

## Choral singers sought

SINGERS in the Black Country are invited to take part in an Easter choral performance. The choir at St Paul's Church in Long Lane, Blackheath, are performing Requiem by Gabriel Fauré on Good Friday (April 14), at 7.30pm. Rehearsals start in church tomorrow (Friday) at 7pm.



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# Man stole car with girlfriend still clinging onto the bonnet

**A MAN stole his girlfriend's VW Polo car and started driving off while she was still clinging to the bonnet, a court heard.**

Adam Willis, aged 31, of Marshwood Croft, Halesowen, had a row with his partner of 18 months Robyn Reeve before stealing her VW Polo. She had tried desperately to stop him but was left dumped on the ground with knee injuries as he drove off in her vehicle. The incident happened in Hordern Road, Whitmore Reans.

## Police have ruled out spit hoods move

WEST Midlands Police has 'no plans' to introduce controversial spit hoods, it has said.

Two forces in the south of the country have confirmed they are rolling out the mesh guards, which go over an offender's face to stop them spitting or biting, to all its frontline officers.

Other forces, including Staffordshire, already use the hoods but a West Midlands Police spokeswoman said: "There are no plans to use spit hoods."

However, Tom Cuddeford, the chair of the West Midlands Police Federation, has insisted talks are in place over the potential use of the guards.

He said: "West Midlands Police have said what they have said but we are in talks with the force at the current time with regards to this issue. It is on the table and we are engaging with chiefs and the force themselves."

"From a Federation point of view, we feel they should be used for the safety and protection of officers."

Prosecutor Balbir Paul told Wolverhampton magistrates: "He took his girlfriend's car. She did try to stop him. She climbed onto the bonnet but he carried on driving away."

"She had been in a relationship with him for 18 months and the defendant had recently moved in with her."

"They had a falling out and he attempted to take the vehicle."

"The victim followed him outside and got onto the bonnet. The defendant reversed the vehicle and the victim fell onto the concrete below."

### Injuries

"She sustained minor injuries to her knees. He continued to drive away," added Mr Paul

Willis pleaded guilty to aggravated vehicle taking which caused injury by accident.

Magistrates took into account the fact that Ms Reeve was his partner as an aggravating feature.

He failed to attend a meeting with the probation service, so magistrates refused to adjourn sentencing to obtain reports.

Willis was handed a 12-week jail sentence, suspended for 12 months, and disqualified from driving for 12 months.

He was also ordered to pay £200 compensation and £135 court costs.

## Museum plays a Blinder as thousands visit



A typical street scene at The Black Country Living Museum, on Tipton Road, on the Dudley-Sandwell border

VISITOR numbers are up at the Black Country Living Museum (BCLM) with more than 300,000 passing through its doors last year.

The Dudley attraction saw 308,457 people attend in 2016, which was a 5.4 per cent rise on 292,533 from 2015.

Bosses welcomed the increase in figures at a time when many museums are seeing visitor numbers dwindle.

Andrew Lovett, BCLM chief executive, said the museum is hoping to build on its success and welcome 500,000 visitors each year.

The attraction showcases what life was like in the Black Country during the Victorian revolution and early 20th century, and is aiming to move into the post-Second World War period including the 1960s.

It features buildings saved from demolition across the region alongside exhibitions of mines, heavy machinery, trams and even a vintage fairground.

The museum has been used as a film set, particularly for hit TV 1920s gangster drama Peaky Blinders over the last couple of years.

The museum has put together a plan to make it become a 'word class visitor attraction'. Mr Lovett said visitor numbers show the museum were 'heading the right direction'.

"This is really positive news for BCLM, especially in a time when not all museums are seeing more visitors coming through their doors," he said.

"As part of our proposed new development project 'BCLM: Forging Ahead' we want to achieve 500,000 visitors per year within the next 10 years."

## HIV cases on increase in Sandwell

THE number of people with HIV and Aids in Sandwell has risen - with 150 new cases in five years.

A total of 159 new cases have been reported to the council between 2011 and 2015, with the biggest number of diagnosis in 2015.

The National Aids Trust has said Sandwell should be investing in prevention services as the diagnosis rate is 'significantly higher' than average for the West Midlands and UK.

Statistics from Public Health England in 2013 stated that the borough was officially classed as an HIV high prevalence area - one of only 63 in the country.

In 2015, 45 new cases were reported to the council, 10 more new cases than in 2014. People aged between 35 and 49 in Sandwell were the most affected - with 73 diagnosed in that age group. The figures also show that nine people aged 15 to 24, and 51 people aged 25 to 34 are affected by the illness.

Sarah Radcliffe, director of policy and campaigns at National Aids Trust, said: "The new diagnosis rate in Sandwell is higher than the national average and also significantly higher than the average for the West Midlands. As an area of high HIV prevalence, Sandwell should be investing in HIV prevention services as well as opportunities for residents to test and learn their HIV status."

## Celebrating science, tech and robotics

LIBRARIES will celebrate science, technology, comics and digital media over the half term.

Budding coders can learn all about robotics, Minecraft, mad science, animal handling, animation, manga, computer games and raspberry pi. All events are free but must be booked in advance. Events will be held at libraries across the borough including in Halesowen, Lye, Cradley, Coseley and Brierley Hill.

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# Force is strong with new 'Star Paws' police recruits

THEY may be small and fluffy, but they sound like the heroes, villains and stars of the big screen. West Midlands Police officers have been naming their latest dog litters after films.

And they are always on the lookout for new dog walkers to raise their puppies who could eventually become fully-trained police dogs. The latest litters have been given names with a Star Wars and Dad's Army theme.

Police officers, at the dog training centre in Balsall Common, will also be coming up with more names in the future, including those based around Game of Thrones and Harry Potter.

Officers are getting creative with the names because as police breed a lot of litters they are running out of regular names to use.

The litter of Star Wars puppies, nicknamed 'Star Paws', have all found dog walkers. But a new litter of puppies, which are one-week-old and have been given names of the popular TV programme Dad's Army, will soon be needing walkers.

## Successful

The role of the walkers is to raise the puppies until they are at least six months old - at which point they will undergo a crucial assessment to see if they can continue their training.

Puppies which are successful are then returned to the dog walkers for around four months.

West Midlands Police breed scheme manager David Raymond said: "Without the dog walkers, we would not have a dog unit really."

"They do a lot of hard work helping the dogs through socialising and getting used to environments before they are allocated dog handlers."

By Jamie Brassington

"The roles that dogs will be trained up for is general purpose, and there will be specialist roles for used for tracking, searching drugs or identifying explosives."

"We have about 12 litters throughout the year, and currently we have 70 German shepherd puppies and 30 English cocker spaniel puppies in our system. It is difficult when the dog walkers hand over the puppies."

"For some people they will say it's not for me. You are going to form emotional bonds with animals. But some people have been doing it for 30 years and love a new challenge every 12 months."

People wishing to be walkers need to be at least 18, and must have a lot of time free. West Midlands Police has its own breeding scheme and supplies puppies and police dogs to police forces across the country, and even around the world.

The Star Wars puppy litter, all German shepherds, were given the names of Darth Vader, Jabba, Trooper, Luke, Hans, Binx, Bibi and Saber. Anyone interested in being a dog walker is asked to email breed-scheme@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk. They must also live in the West Midlands area or on the outskirts.



Crime-fighters of the future - the Star Wars police puppy litter.

Picture by @No1GhostDog

## M6 collision driver taken to hospital

AN elderly driver was taken to hospital after his car and two lorries were involved in a crash on the M6.

The 69-year-old man was treated at the scene by paramedics after his vehicle collided with one of the HGVs, then spun around and hit a wall near Spaghetti Junction in Birmingham.

Crews from West Midlands Ambulance Service treated the man for neck pain following the smash, which happened at around 9.20am on Monday.

The man had to be cut from his vehicle by firefighters before being taken to Sandwell Hospital for further treatment.

Meanwhile, drivers faced delays of up to an hour as three lanes were shut between Spaghetti Junction and Junction 7 for Great Barr.

A West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman said: "The 69-year-old man, the driver of the car, said there was a collision with a HGV and then his car spun and hit a wall."

"He was complaining of pain in his right hip. He was immobilised and taken to Sandwell Hospital."

## Dudley Council staff in ballot over action

DUDLEY Council staff could strike over plans to make them pay for parking and other changes to their working conditions.

Workers have taken part in a ballot which union bosses said is to 'test the water' to see if there is an appetite for industrial action.

Employees have been left fuming over proposals to remove or amend some employee benefits, with around 280 employees set to be affected by the cuts.

The proposals include imposing three days of unpaid annual over the Christmas period and reducing the mileage allowance by 10p to 45p per mile.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# Storing up problems by shuffling the stock

DONE your weekly shop at Tesco over the weekend? Might not be a bad idea to check your receipt. According to an excellent investigation by the BBC's Inside Out programme, 33 out of the 50 Tesco stores they visited were advertising things for one price on the shelves, but charging them another at the till.

There is no suggestion of any intent, and when the investigators challenged shop assistants in this neck of the woods, they invariably blamed staff shortages.

In which case, how do they find time to keep shuffling the stock about? Not once in the past three Saturdays have certain things been where they were the previous week, despite signs hanging above the aisles to the contrary. Hunting the Yorkshire puddings in particular has become something of a weekly sport.

Why do supermarkets do this? The official line would be that the layout will make for a better customer experience. To which I say: Total codswallop.

There is the old theory that by forcing us to spend longer round the aisles, we will buy other things that catch our eye while looking for those elusive Yorkshires. But are people really so stupid? Have any of you thought: "Hm, I can't find the Yorkshire pudding to go with my Sunday roast, but that quinoa looks rather nice, and let's buy some ice cream while we're about it"? No, didn't think so.

What usually happens in my case is that after about 10 minutes' searching, I will concede defeat and storm off in a huff without buying it.

It has been a lean time for our big supermarkets, which have been feeling the pinch from discount rivals. So here's an idea. Just decide where the best location is for the Yorkshire pudding and the cooked meat. And leave it there. For the next 10 years at least.

It probably won't send profits through the roof, but they might just sell a bit more.

As they say, every little helps.

□ □ □

LEAKED emails reveal David Beckham was a bit miffed that he was only appointed an OBE, clearly believing he deserved a knighthood.

Frankly, I've never really bought into all this Goldenballs stuff. A prodigious talent, no doubt, but his former manager Sir Alex Ferguson frequently talked about how his showbiz lifestyle didn't sit well with the discipline of team sport.

Which is probably why, as we look back on his career, he is better remembered for his sarong, sandals, tattoos and pop-star wife than anything he achieved on the football field.

He might also like to consider what makes him different from his predecessor as England captain. Bobby Moore, who contented himself with an OBE.

Except that Bobby Moore's England team won something.

# Where blame lies for 'broken' housing programme



EU president Jean-Claude Juncker – but how many people know about him?



New term 'nabbit' as Diane Abbott missed the crucial vote in the Commons



The late, great comedian Les Dawson proved just the job as a storyteller

# Real problem is our soaring population

WHEN ministers talk of our "broken" housing programme, they need look no further than the House of Commons for someone to blame. Britain is a big and welcoming country. It could cope perfectly well with net migration of 100,000 newcomers per year. But when the UK population is allowed to grow at up to five times that rate, from 50 million to 70 million in a single lifetime, then everything, including surgeries, hospitals, schools, roads, railways and electricity, gas and water supplies, begins to creak and fall apart. There is absolutely no point in any Government brandishing a new White Paper and announcing a new housing policy unless it also has a viable population policy. We are still waiting.

GREAT coincidences of our time. Number of houses required to meet Britain's housing needs: 300,000 per year. Net migration into Britain: 300,000 per year.

THE Government says old folk occupying big houses will be "given incentives" to move into smaller properties. A reader asks: "Will the same criteria apply to the stately piles of England: Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle and Clarence House?" Any more questions like that, my lad, and you'll find yourself in a very large dwelling. The Tower.

A RECENT item on predictive text gave the example of Wton (short for Wolverhampton) being confused with Eton (the public school). In real life, the two could never be confused. One is a multicultural place populated by people with an impenetrable accent and bizarre dress-sense who are ridiculously proud of it. The other is Wolverhampton.

YOU may recall my ill-fated Campaign for the Restoration of Authentic Plumbing, a cause damned by its own initials. It may be time to

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



revive it. A report by Age UK alleges that modern push-button lavatory flushes can be impossible for some old folk to operate. A device that makes perfect sense to bright young designers in the bog-flush industry may be quite impossible if you are old, frail and have a touch of arthritis. As a general rule, if something has worked for 100 years, leave it alone. Pull chains and lever flushes have served this great nation very well. Let us see more of them.

A EURO-QUIZ. Who is the president of the European Commission? When was he elected by the people? What are his views on migration? What's his wife's name? If you are stumped for the answers, you are in the majority. We know all these things about Donald Trump, the new President of the United States, but are blissfully ignorant about the leaders of the European Union. It proves that, whatever The Remoaners tell us, most Britons have never really engaged with the EU. Even after 40 years of the European Project, we still look west towards Washington rather than east towards Brussels. The answers? The EU president is Jean-Claude Juncker. Elected by the people? You must be joking; he was appointed by MEPs. He says the migration crisis should be handled "with solidarity and the heart." His wife is Christiane. That's enough EU trivia, isn't it? Now, back to the interesting stuff at the White House . . .

AS the trial in Apple Tree Yard (BBC1) came to its climax, the foreman of the jury did not merely deliver the verdict but did so after a long pause, as seen with the Strictly Come Dancing voting,

to build up the tension. It was a silly moment to insert in a serious drama but it made me wonder. In this age, when people base their language and behaviour on what they see on television, has a real-life foreman in a real-life court announced: "We find the accused (interminable pause) not guilty"? I can think of some crusty old judges who would have sent the foreman straight to the cells for contempt for turning a serious trial into a drama.

NEW terms for out time: The nabbott. A nabbott is a sudden and mysterious disease which immediately disqualifies the victim from important business, such as voting in the Commons. The defining characteristic of the nabbott is that not everyone believes it is real. As in: "He's just throwing a nabbott."

HOWEVER, if Diane Abbott was genuinely struck down by a migraine just before the Brexit White Paper vote, she deserves our sympathy. Nobody ever gets just one migraine. They strike time after time. In my case it was once every six months. They came, throbbed for exactly six-and-a-half hours (so regular that you could set your clock by them) and then vanished, leaving me weak and wobbly but strangely cleansed. I suffered years of migraines; they suddenly stopped when I was put on blood pressure tablets.

THE late, great Les Dawson told the tale of a man who went to the Jobcentre and explained it had been a long time since he'd had a job. "So what was that job?" asked the clerk. "Zeppelin builder," replied the man. It's a reminder that some jobs don't survive the march of history. Carl Frey, a technology expert at Oxford University, has compiled a list of the £40,000-plus jobs most at risk from robots. Right at the top, I am delighted to report, are insurance underwriters.

TALKING POINT



# Blow the whistle on treatment of referees

GRASSROOTS football is facing strikers of a different kind – the referees.

The men in black are being led in a protest campaign by young referee Ryan Hampson, an 18-year-old who has been punched, butted and spat on while officiating.

Some 800 officials agreed to join him on a nationwide strike on March 4-5 demanding more action from the FA to protect refs in grassroots football. The strike looks set to be put off after talks with his local FA in Manchester. But this action has been a long time coming and maybe a walkout is exactly what is needed.

Despite the token 'Respect the ref' banner, the man in the middle is easy prey for intimidation, abuse and occasionally violence. Every weekend I have to watch my teenage son set himself up as a target for know-it-all dads, bullying managers and yobbish players.

Most of the time those belowing about his decisions are in no position to accurately see the action or don't seem to have read a rule book since 1972 – but that doesn't stop them shouting out.

Managers seem to think if they badger a young ref for long enough he/she will change their minds. Or they will be too frightened to give a decision against them. In my experience, an obnoxious and/or vocal manager usually means obnoxious and/or vocal parents. Similarly, disciplined and sporting managers will have respectful parents – and players.

It is a case of 'monkey see, monkey do' with children. Just as they imitate the appalling behaviour of professional players, they also pick up the habits of parents and coaches. These aren't just pushy parents. They might argue they are being supportive but frankly they are embarrassing.

Someone should tell the parents this a group of children playing for fun – though not if you have angry parents pitchside!

Speaking as a referee's mother, if you think it is acceptable to abuse a young lad who has got out of bed on a cold weekend to earn a bit of pocket money then you need to take a long hard look at yourself.

My son has been refereeing since he was 14. Fresh-faced and new to the game, it was tough and many of his friends simply quit. He has grown in confidence and now stands at 6ft tall so tends to see less intimidation but I worry how it will be when he starts taking charge of adult games.

No ref always makes the right call, particularly when your linesman is a well-meaning parent, but that is part of the game. Teams must put up and shut up unless they want to pay for professional linesmen. If these youngsters did not give up their weekends there would be no games. It may just take a strike to remind people.

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# Happy in your Little England fantasy?

LIKE Mr Winterborn (Chronicle Letters, February 9), I am sick to the back teeth. I am sick to the back teeth of the attitude of those who think that voting for such an economically, politically, and socially destructive outcome as Brexit is cause for celebration and that we should all get behind it – especially considering that the generation that will have to administer it and live with the fallout of it, largely didn't want it in the first place.

I wonder really whether the patronising Mr Winterborn is aware of how democracy works. You see, when a

political movement is NARROWLY defeated in a referendum those people do not spontaneously change their opinion like some sort of religious epiphany. Instead, they form what is called an 'opposition movement' and attempt to change public opinion.

Mr Winterborn fails to point out that the majority of British people are employed in service sector jobs, NOT manufacturing, and EU membership has been broadly beneficial to the overall economic stability of our country.

I work in Theatre in Education, a field Mr Winterborn would probably

dismiss as not being a 'proper job'. I often work with people who tour productions and champion our Great British literary export – William Shakespeare – across Europe, where our EU citizenship allows us to travel freely and affords us some guarantee of emergency medical care should we need it. Without access to this market much of our business would be gone.

But so long as Mr Winterborn is happy in his Little England fantasy we all have to shut up don't we?

**RICHARD GREEN**  
Halesowen

## Cameron caused this awful mess

WHAT a mess! Our once proud nation reduced to go begging cap in hand for trade with China, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, all of which have dubious human rights records, plus the USA, run by a president capable of dragging the UK into dangerous, disastrous situations. We shouldn't touch him with a bargepole!

How did we get into this predicament? We can thank 'Nasty Nigel', 'Barmy Boris' and, most of all, 'Cowardly Cameron', who through his own vanity escalated an internal Tory Party squabble into a national referendum, which in parts has become tainted with racist undertones.

He then promptly ran away from the consequences of his actions, which may yet precipitate the break-up of the United Kingdom. If there is any justice, history should judge Cameron as our worst prime minister ever.

**MICHAEL CLIFF**  
Dudley

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Code of Practice: Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at

### EMAIL

dudley.chron@  
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## Let me choose my time to die with dignity

I am a nonagenarian. I am able to live alone; I was married for 60 years. I have a loving family and they will do anything for me but I can manage. When I can't I don't want to be a burden on anyone.

We all know the NHS is a marvellous institution but unfortunately so costly it will bankrupt this country if it is not run more effectively. So I am proposing that it takes over the ending of life for those who ask for it. When I can't care for myself and start to suffer I would like a doctor to put me to sleep painlessly. Everyone dies sometime, but it must be voluntary, being kept alive with no future is ridiculous. A doctor's job is to reduce suffering not to keep you living forever. With the onset of dementia, one should be able to record the decision beforehand.

**MR W ROUND**  
Kingswinford

## It's hard to catch late night racers

I LIVE close to Spies Lane in Lapal – and I am a bit of a 'night owl' – every so often I can hear a 'little boy racer' night.

I have telephoned the police on a number of occasions and they tell me that by the time someone comes out, they have gone.

They have also tried 'stake outs' but these clever little dangerous nuisances do actually do it for about half-an-hour and then it stops – also it is very random.

All I can say is on the little boy racer circuit we are getting more and more evidence of their reckless behaviour.

There are more and more examples of bent and demolished roadside furniture, which costs the tax-payer money to replace.

These people surely can't have jobs as they would not be racing about at one or two in the morning?

**DENISE SMITH**  
Halesowen

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**FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL**



# Order aims not to ruin future for dishonest shop assistant

A UNIVERSITY student who tried to defraud Mothercare out of more than £6,000 was spared a suspended jail sentence in the hope that a community order would not blight her future.

Heerah Shahid was working on the tills at the company's Merry Hill shopping centre branch when started a gift card scam.

The 20-year-old, who had never been in trouble before, blamed unspecified 'pressure' from a mystery man, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

From January last year she credited gift cards with varying amounts, recording them as refunds, revealed Mr Phillip Beardwell, prosecuting. She used them to buy more than £1,000 worth of goods from the firm's website using her own name and having them delivered to her family home in Gamage Street, Dudley. The second year bio medical sciences student – eldest of six children – also put money recorded as refunds into her own bank account.

## Litter getting worse across the borough

LITTERING is on the rise in Dudley borough according to new figures released by the council.

In 2011 there was 1,034 incidents reported to Dudley Council, but this rose to 1,392 in 2015.

The increase was almost a year-on-year rise, except for 2013 when the figure dropped to 992.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said there was 'no excuse' for dumping rubbish in Dudley.

She added: "If we catch anybody littering we hand out fines, which we carry out all the time.

"We ask people to respect the environment. People should use litter bins at home. Some people think if they drop litter, it will be picked up. There is absolutely no excuse to litter in Dudley."

The litter figures were measured from April to March each year. Also, in 2012 there were 1,111 fly-tipping incidents, up to 1,223 in 2014.

### Triggered

Then she tried to claim refunds on four child buggies – worth £1,000 each – which triggered an investigation by Mothercare's fraud detection team just two weeks after she had handed in her notice.

Mr Richard Franck, defending, said: "She felt under threat and pressure for reasons she struggles to explain. She thought she could sort it out for herself. This person was demanding more and more. She panicked."

Mr Franck continued: "She comes from a respectable family."

Shahid admitted two charges of fraud by abuse of position and was told by Recorder Martin Forde QC: "I am confident you will not be before the courts again."

She received a 12 month community order for 100 hours unpaid work and was ordered to pay £2,281 compensation to Mothercare and £340 costs.

## New building plan for old pub site



The British Oak was turned into a church community centre but modern facilities are now needed

A PUB that re-opened as a community centre is set to be demolished and a new church facility built in its place.

The two-storey community centre on Salop Street in Dudley was formerly the British Oak pub, but since 2003 has been used by the Dudley Community Church.

The church sponsors the community centre's activities, which are also open to the general public and include counselling services.

However, the church now wants to knock down the premises and build a

single-storey brick building with better facilities on the site instead.

As well as allowing them to take on three extra staff, the new building will have a kitchen, an open plan dining area capable of accommodating 90 people, individual counselling rooms and play rooms. There would also be a computer room, office space, storage rooms and toilets.

### Success

In their plans for a new building the applicants state: "Due to the success

of the centre, the present building, a refurbished public house, is no longer suited in layout and size, to the needs of the services on offer to the community.

"Hence the intention to demolish the existing building and utilise the plot, together with a small area behind it, to construct a new, specifically designed facility."

Castle and Priory Councillor Ken Finch said: "The work that the church does is absolutely marvellous. There is a great community spirit"

## GPs offering more weekend appointments

GPs in Dudley have come together to offer patients extended access to appointments over weekends.

Thanks to funding from Dudley Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG), a number of practices are now open on Saturdays and Sundays.

The aim is to improve access to primary care services during weekends and reduce the pressure on hospital accident and emergency departments, allowing them to concentrate on more urgent cases.

In recent years, extended opening hours in Dudley has been successful in increasing access for patients whilst providing continuity of care.

### Popular

Steve Wellings, chairman of the primary care commissioning committee at Dudley CCG said: "It's really good news that practices in Dudley are opening on weekends.

"This has proven to be popular in the past and has been successful in alleviating pressure on local practices by providing extra appointments for patients in general practice."

Instead of visiting accident and emergency, patients are advised to contact their own practice to see if it is open or if they can book an appointment at one of the practices offering additional weekend appointments.

## Man, 20, was stabbed in the leg near stadium

A MAN was taken to hospital after he was stabbed on Bryce Road, Pensnett.

Police were called on Wednesday afternoon (February 8) after the victim, aged 20, was found with stab injuries to his leg and buttock.

The incident happened at around 4pm in the road close to The Dell Stadium.

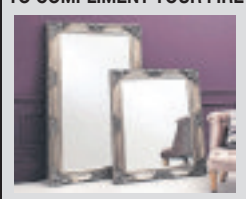
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## Metro rail clearance work is right on track



Workers Sam Davis and Keith Millward on the line of the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill extension line for the Midland Metro

WORK has taken a step forward on the Midland Metro extension through the Black Country, with work to clear overgrowth continuing until the end of the month.

The new tram service will run between Wednesbury and Brierley Hill and pass through Dudley on the former South Staffordshire Railway line, which is now being cleared.

Midland Metro Alliance contracted workers to clear overgrown vegetation from the line in January and they have now completed their work. It will enable surveys to be carried out on the line for assessment, in preparation for when trams will eventually run on the rails.

A spokesman said the MMA, which is working on behalf of the West Midlands Combined Authority, 'expects construction on the route to begin in 2019 before it will be open to passengers by 2023'.

'As the route is extremely overgrown, it is necessary to clear it in order comprehensive structural and environmental surveys can be carried out. The surveys will be done later this year, as part of the detailed design work for the route.'

# 20 Syrian refugees taken in by council

**BLACK** Country councils will take in 140 refugees from war-torn Syria over the next five years, it has been revealed.

Wolverhampton Council has pledged to help 100 people by 2020, while Dudley will accommodate 20 over the next five years. Walsall will take in 20 Syrian refugees up to May.

Staffordshire County Council has already taken in 51 people from the Middle Eastern country, while Dudley has housed two families.

Prime Minister Theresa May declared that the UK would resettle up to 20,000 refugees from the Middle East and North Africa by 2020.

Around 400,000 people have been killed in Syria since the war between the Government and rebels began almost six years ago, the United Nations estimates.

### Fled

Thousands have fled their homeland with many taking treacherous and life-threatening journeys across the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe.

Refugees are assessed on their vulnerability before

### By Jamie Brassington

coming to the UK, and are resettled under the Syrian Resettlement Programme.

Those eligible include children; adolescents and women at risk; survivors of violence and torture; and people at risk due to their sexual orientation and gender identity. Across the country there are 12 local government-led organisations that help place refugees with councils.

Faye Jeffery, regional resettlement manager for the West Midlands at Refugee Action, said: 'Our dedicated staff and volunteers are working closely with our local partners to ensure these individuals and families, who have faced unimaginable horrors, are supported to rebuild their lives with dignity.'



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# Get active, get fit with seniors

EXERCISE classes aimed at the older generation are running at various venues across the Black Country.

Active Seniors is a local not-for-profit social enterprise providing opportunities to help people stay active and independent in their later years.

They run classes in Hagley, Brierley Hill, Wall Heath and Sedgley and are now planning new sessions in Belbroughton and Kidderminster.

There are different types of class including cardio circuit classes for those wishing to improve their general fitness.

Active Seniors can also offer fitness advice on a one-to-one or small group basis.

For further details on dates and venues call 07512 546480 or email [activeseniorsclass@gmail.com](mailto:activeseniorsclass@gmail.com)

# Tributes are paid to rugby club's former chairman

**TRIBUTES have been paid to a popular former rugby player and club president who has died at the age of 78.**

Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club stalwart Richard Connett died at Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley, after a period of ill health.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Marlene, and four sons – Ian, Ben, Edward and Mark. He also had seven grandchildren.

He had moved from Devon to Dudley to study and work as an accountant.

Richard enjoyed a long playing career with DK during the 1950s and 60s. He was captain when the club moved from Penzer Street, Kingswinford, to Heathbrook, Wall Heath, in 1963.

He later turned his talents to coaching and enjoyed a successful period with the club before increasingly moving to the committee. He was club president from 1977 to 1980.

He was also valued at North Midlands level where he had a spell as chairman of selectors for the senior side.

A spokesman for DK said: "It was at DK that he really made his mark. He was a leading figure in a group who masterminded DK's rise from a club struggling to improve its fixture list in the amateur days to a side that progressed to the national leagues."

"He overcame a shortage of players by organising weekly transport from DK's spiritual home in Tipton down to Heathbrook every Sunday. This led to a strong team spirit amongst the lads and they became a tight group who later developed into a fine team. A fitting epitaph would be, 'What's going on at DK, ask Connett'."

His funeral will be held at Gornal Wood Crematorium on Friday, February 24, at 11.40am with mourners then meeting at DKRFC.



Richard Connett

# Science 'is not just for geeks'

THE University of Wolverhampton has appointed its first Fellow of Public Engagement for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

Martin Khechara, aged 39, is senior lecturer in biomedical science in the faculty of science and engineering and joined the university in 2008 after working for the Ministry of Defence in their science technology laboratories.

The new role will see Mr Khechara promote the value of public engagement with the faculty and will focus on developing ways in which the local community can work with the faculty to access STEM subjects.

He said: "As a Fellow I'm aiming to reach out into the local community and raise aspirations in people, parents, children – anyone really – and dispel the myth that STEM subjects are just for geeks."

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# Parliament's debate on ivory disappoints



Ellen Cobb continues her fight to outlaw the ivory trade

A PETITION started by a Stourbridge woman calling for a total ban on ivory sales in the UK was debated in Parliament, but the lack of a conclusion left her disappointed.

Ellen Cobb, of Beale Street, set up the petition in August and it received more than 107,000 signatures, including those of celebrities Louis Theroux and Stephen Fry who shared it on social media with their millions of followers.

But the three-hour long debate concluded with the Government saying consultation was due to take place shortly. Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Dr Therese Coffey, said: "I really hope it will be as soon as possible."

Ellen, 22, wants protection for African elephants killed for their tusks, carved into ivory ornaments and jewellery.

"I was disappointed with the overall result from the debate and the reaction, but I'm going to carry on campaigning and fighting for an overall ban in the UK," said Miss Cobb. "Whilst the debate took place, over the three hours, we estimated that around 12 elephants were killed. Time is really running out and this issue needs to be sorted."

# Free library talks on Black Country subjects

PEOPLE can attend free afternoon talks about the Black Country at Sandwell's Central Library.

Staff at the library, in High Street, West Bromwich, are hosting the Tuesday afternoon talks.

People can find out more about Marlene the Black Country Wench on February 21. Marlene is a grandmother from Quarry Bank who gives regular talks about Black Country women's lives. On February 28 local actor and musician Barry Harper, who is in the forthcoming film Jawbone with Ray Winstone, will talk about his career in movies and TV.

Local historian Keith Hodgkins will be taking a nostalgic illustrated tour around Old West Bromwich when he pops in on March 14, and bare-knuckle champion the Tipton Slasher is the subject on March 21, when author Chris Smith will be discussing the boxing champion.

All the talks are at the library in West Bromwich, starting at 2pm on Tuesdays. Admission is free.



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# More links football to dementia, says family

A DAUGHTER of Albion legend Jeff Astle has said evidence that heading footballs is linked to dementia is 'mounting and mounting' after a new study offered more weight to the theory.

Dawn Astle has called for authorities governing the sport to stop pushing the issue 'under the carpet' after research was carried out on retired footballers.

The findings, from a study on 14 former players, suggest a possible link between playing football and developing conditions such as dementia in later in life.

Former West Brom and England striker Astle died in 2002, aged 59, suffering from early on-set dementia, which a coroner found was caused by heading heavy footballs.

Experts said the results of the study provide a platform for a 'pressing research question' on whether dementia is more common in footballers than the general population.

The rate of chronic traumatic encephalopathy, CTE, which can cause dementia, detected in the brains of the players was greater than the 12 per cent average found in a previous study which looked at brains from

By Richard Guttridge

non-footballers. And Ms Astle said it was more evidence that footballers were at risk of developing conditions after retirement.

The Astle family have campaigned for the Football Association to recognise the impact of heading footballs and take action to protect players since the death of the former striker.

Ms Astle said: "We know what happened to dad and the evidence is mounting and mounting. What we need is for football to do something. This isn't a broken leg, people are dying. It is too late for older players, it is about today's players, and the footballers of the future."

"It has been 15 years since dad died. This could have been done. It is time for the authorities to stop pushing it under the carpet."

## Thief caught in the act by CCTV trap



This baseball cap wearing thief is pictured by the police's 'trick and trap' van when it was parked in Halesowen. A CROOK stealing a saw from a van in Halesowen was caught in the act on camera thanks to a CCTV trap set up by police.

The man was pictured breaking into one of the forces's 'trick and trap' vans. He stole a saw in the break-in when the van was parked in a Halesowen street.

The vehicles are equipped with cameras to capture the unsuspecting criminals when they break-in. It follows a rise in response to the spike in thefts from cars and vans during the winter.

A force spokesman said: "Our capture van was parked on Instone Road, Halesowen, as part of an ongoing force-wide operation into vehicle crime."

"A steel saw was stolen, but we captured the whole thing on CCTV which we've now released in a bid to trace the offenders."

The theft took place on December 13 between 2am and 2.30am.

Police urge anyone who can help to contact Detective Constable Darren Barnes by emailing [d.m.barnes@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:d.m.barnes@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk) or call police on 101.



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# Arthur's African flyer does Black Country proud

PIGEON fancier Arthur Jones is celebrating one of his best ever race results having watched his 'Black Country Boys' compete over 255 miles in southern Africa.

Last summer Mr Jones sent five baby pigeons to a loft in Zimbabwe where they were trained alongside thousands of other birds to compete in the inaugural Victoria Falls World Challenge.

He could not have imagined that one of his flock, that are proudly named the Black Country Boys, would finish 12th of more than 400 pigeons which started the race.

The 74-year-old was even there to witness his bird arrive back at the loft and to collect his prize money. He said: "The leading birds returned in around eight and a half hours and our bird, Jess, came in around 30 minutes later. Our bird was first

from the UK to come home and by some margin. He beat birds from all over the world including China, United States and South Africa. We were absolutely delighted.

"My daughter was watching the race live on YouTube and there were a few others too who got really excited."

The Black Country Boys were named after Mr Jones' five grand-daughters Jess, Jade, Chloe, Leah and Willow. They were among nearly 1,500 pigeons sent to Zimbabwe from 23 different countries and only those which made it through rigorous training were released.

Mr Jones has 100 pigeons at his home in Stourton and has been keeping them since the age of eight. He is a member of Wordsley South Road Flying Club, which appropriately meets at the Bird In Hand pub.



What a coup – pigeon fancier Arthur Jones, of Stourton, had success in Africa with his pigeons

# New recruits find their calling on 999

NEARLY 30 people have taken on a new career as a call assessor for West Midlands Ambulance Service since October last year.

The 28 recruits, from a wide range of backgrounds, have joined the organisation to help save the lives of those who call 999.

The workers are based at the service's two Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) in Brierley Hill and Stafford. With more than 3,000 emergency 999 calls received a day, the service is the third busiest in the country.

During a 12-hour shift, a call assessor will answer a staggering 70 calls, ranging from coughs and cuts through to life-threatening alerts about chest pain, strokes or serious blood loss.

A retained firefighter, prison officer, retail assistant and mental health worker are among the new call assessors.

Liz Parker, head of EOC development and training, said: "You don't need a university degree or healthcare background to apply for the role as a 999 call assessor with us."

# Shocking figures for attacks on taxi drivers

**TAXI drivers have been attacked more than 3,000 times in the West Midlands over the last decade.**

The shock figures, which have been released under Freedom of Information laws, come just days after an horrific assault on cabbie Sheakh Arbaz in Dudley during the early hours on a Saturday.

The Stourbridge-based cabbie was punched repeatedly and left with a large gash on his face which needed stitches after his passengers robbed him of his takings.

That came just a couple of weeks after four teenagers in Birmingham were convicted of throwing stones at passing cabs on Bellevue Road, Edgbaston. One of the rocks shattered the window of a Dudley cab, fracturing the skull of a 77-year-old passenger and showering her husband in glass as their night out to the theatre ended at hospital.

## Damage

Five other taxis had been hit that same night, causing at least £1,600 in damage.

At an earlier youth court hearing, a 17-year-old admitted wounding and was convicted of conspiracy to commit damage. Two 16-year-olds and a youth, 15, were also convicted of wounding and conspiracy to damage taxis.

Sentencing the four Birmingham teenagers, who cannot be named because of their ages, District Judge Joanna Dickens said there had been "serious consequences" not only for the victim but for the youths. The court heard that three

By Nick Humphreys

of the youngsters' families were being evicted from their homes as a result of their involvement.

The judge handed each youth a one-year youth rehabilitation order with curfews of between three and six months. Each was also ordered to pay £50 compensation to the injured woman.

Figures show that cabbies endured 1,775 assaults occasioning actual bodily harm, 780 common assaults and 131 racially aggravated assaults occasioning actual bodily harm. Grievous bodily harm with intent was committed 83 times, assault with intent to rob happened 64 times and there were 49 incidences of racially aggravated common assault.

The figures have prompted taxi boss Shaz Saleem to call for more protection for cabbies.

Mr Saleem, chairman of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association, said: "I knew there was a lot but didn't realise it was quite that many. It is shocking to hear. It's yet another sign that we need more support from the police."

# Money wasted on food that only feeds the bin

FAMILIES in the West Midlands waste an average of £169 a year on food that ends up in the bin, according to new research.

The nationwide survey carried out by Provident on around 2,000 UK adults revealed how much the average Brit spent on food, water and unused satellite TV, among others.

It also raised the question about how much Britain could be saving by simply being more careful when grocery shopping or checking their account for any unusual debits.

People in the West Midlands spend an average of £65 on their weekly shop, of which five per cent will go to the bin, mainly because products have expired.

Monthly subscriptions also hit pockets with many paying a monthly subscription via direct debits for services they never actually use. It took an average of four-and-a-half months to cancel such a service.

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Wilson Lovatt staff enjoying a camel ride



William's brother Harry in uniform



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William in his linen suit in Egypt

# Trooping to Egypt for contract on barracks

ONE of Wolverhampton's best known construction companies, was Wilson Lovatt & Sons.

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## Outskirts

The barracks were at Heliopolis on the outskirts of Cairo, near the airfield used by both the RAF and Imperial Airways.

In charge of the contract was William Alexander Poulson of Rayleigh Road, Wolverhampton.

His father had operated a building firm, J Poulson and Son of St Mark's

## MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

Road, but William, who had been born in 1880, moved to Wilson Lovatt, initially as a foreman bricklayer.

He went out to Egypt on the P & O steamship SS Maloja. While in Egypt he took in all the sights, and took many photographs on his early glass-plate camera.

He returned before the War, contract complete, and his son Geoffrey was born in 1914.

He continued to work for Wilson Lovatt until his retirement.

His brother Harry was called up in the First World War, and was due to marry Clara Jones on his demob, but she died in the influenza epidemic of 1918-9.



Inspecting the works at Abbassia



William Poulson in later life



Mrs Poulson at home in Rayleigh Road

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## Ex-councillor denies charge

A FORMER Dudley councillor has denied making indecent images of a child.

Derrick Hemingsley, who represented Wordsley until last year, appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week where he pleaded not guilty to the single charge.

The 57-year-old, who was also a governor at Belle Vue Primary School in Wordsley and chairman of the Friends of Wordsley Park, will stand trial in October.

The offence is alleged to have taken place between August 2013 and November 2015.

Hemingsley, of Penzer Street, Kingswinford, spoke only to confirm his name and enter his plea. Wearing a dark grey suit, the ex-Labour councillor sat in the dock during the hearing which lasted around 15 minutes. A week-long trial was fixed to begin on October 2. He was released on conditional bail.

Hemingsley was put on 'immediate administrative suspension' by the Labour party.

## Dudley surprises geographer



'Guerilla geographer' Dan Raven-Ellison had his brain monitored during his walk

A NATIONAL Geographic explorer who electronically measured his changing mood during a 2.5 million step walk across Britain's cities and parks, has said Dudley is one of the best places in the UK.

Daniel Raven-Ellison had an EEG monitor strapped to his head which monitored his brain activity as he crossed 69 cities over seven months from June last year. Statistics collected from the monitor showed how stressed, relaxed, excited, focused, interested and engaged he was during the walk.

Mr Raven-Ellison walked from Birmingham, through Dudley to Wolverhampton during the last leg of the trip.

The 37-year-old 'guerilla geographer' said: "Dudley is a very special place. It has a combination of industrial heritage and lots of green spaces and hills that have stunning views. The wilderness and scenery makes

## LCP unveils £100,000 refurbishment of units

KINGSWINFORM-BASED London and Cambridge Properties says it has delivered on its pledge to continue investing in its commercial property portfolio by unveiling two units in the Black Country that have undergone a £100,000 refurbishment.

Units 2 and 3, which comprise more than 18,900 sq ft, at Parkway Business Park, Tipton, are now being marketed after the commercial property management and investment company completed the improvements.

Works to the units, which are available together or can be let as two smaller units of about 9,000 sq ft each, included minor roof works, redecoration throughout and refurbished kitchen and toilet facilities.

Andrew Preston, industrial portfolio manager at LCP, which is based on its own Pensnett Business Estate in Kingswinford, said: "There is demand for units of this size."

# Major road delays warning as busy route gets 20mph limit

**THE speed limit on a section of a busy main road in the Black Country will be reduced to 20mph for three weeks.**

Tipton Road, which runs past Dudley Archives and The Black Country Living Museum, will have the restriction in place on both carriageways from February 24 to March 17. The speed limit will be in place outside rush hours, between 9.30am and 3.30pm on weekdays, for resurfacing work to be carried out.

The move has led to fears over traffic delays, with ongoing work on the A4123 Birmingham New Road already causing problems.

Dudley's Councillor Margaret Aston, who represents the Castle and Priory Ward, said: "It will be the worse during school time. There is a lot of traffic down that road and the awkward bit will be during the school rush hour. It could cause trouble with the ongoing Birmingham New Road works too. But if the work needs to be done that it is something we will have to deal with."

### Congestion

The £1.5 million Birmingham New Road scheme, which aims at reducing congestion, has restrictions in place throughout the day and a 24-hour closure in force on Shaw Road until the end of March.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said Dudley Council

was aiming for minimum disruption. She explained: "This is part of our three-year plan to resurface major roads. Right across the borough we are doing this, which was part of a bid given to us from the Government."

"I am aware that there are ongoing works nearby but we will be trying very hard not to cause any trouble but people need to be aware that there may be disruption."

"We are often approached by utility companies asking to carry out essential work on our roads and our job is to help them do that with as little disruption to communities as possible."

"With this in mind we work closely with them to carefully plan a traffic management system to keep disruption to a minimum but sometimes delays have to be expected."

## Group to honour Bert's memory

A GROUP honouring a peace campaigner and charity fundraiser from the Black Country has been launched.

The Bert Bissell Memorial Society will promote peace and raise money for charities in the region. Supporters who came together to launch the group in Mr Bissell's home town of Dudley include Dudley North MP Ian Austin, Mayor of Dudley Mohammed Hanif, councillors and members of Mr Bissell's family.

Mr Bissell, who lived on Selborne Road, climbed Ben Nevis on VJ Day in 1945 and numerous times afterwards, constructing a peace cairn at its summit.

He was honoured internationally for his peace campaigning and was made a Freeman of two boroughs, Dudley and Fort William in Scotland. Mr Bissell died in 1988 and is buried at the foot of Ben Nevis, where an annual charity walk is held in his memory.

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# Office block now being transformed into flats



**Revamp – the former npower offices on High Street, Kingswinford, are being converted into apartments**

**IT was once the npower office building but now this landmark site in the Black Country is being converted into apartments.**

The building on High Street in Kingswinford has stood empty since it closed in 2013. More than 200 people had been employed at the site, the local base of the UK-based electricity generator and supplier of gas and electricity to homes and businesses.

But now the office block is being transformed into 66 apartments and work expected to be completed by May.

**Prices**

Mandale Apartments are behind the transformation which includes 42 one-bedroom flats and 24 two-bedroom flats. Prices range from £83,000 for the one-bed flat to £107,000 for the two-bed.

The car park, which has 104 spaces, will be left in place to be used by the occupants of the new flats.

Kingswinford councillor Dave Tyler has welcomed the plans. He said: “The homes are much better than leaving the building empty and therefore being at risk to vandalism and arson.”


“A lot of buildings in the borough which are left empty for a length of time tend to end up vandalised, fortunately this building never got to that point.”

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## Committee members re-elected

Clent Gardening Club

AT the Annual General Meeting in January chairman Martin Grange welcomed members and received apologies.

The chairman reported another successful year for the club with members having enjoyed a variety of interesting speakers. The annual joint meeting with Belbroughton Horticultural Society was a successful Gardener’s Question Time which produced a lively audience participation.

The club had enjoyed two splendid evening outings and a summer day trip to the magnificent RHS gardens at Wisley.

Although the club lost two members to the great garden in the sky during the year membership had increased overall by one which was encouraging.

Martin was re-elected as chairman and Peter Orme as honorary treasurer.

Sue Mitchell was elected to replace Ann Hunt as honorary secretary and the remaining committee members were re-elected.

Following any other business the chairman reminded members that the first new year meeting would be on February 24 when Linda Egging will give a talk called Old Plants, New Plants – Who Cares?

The closure of the meeting followed a glass of wine and nibbles to welcome the new gardening year.

Meetings are at Clent Village Hall on the fourth Friday each month. Visit <https://clentgardeningclub.wordpress.com> or call 01562 883009/07917 184762.

## Guest does justice to entertaining talk

### Speaker proves a real Guiding light

Kingswinford Ladies Social Circle

THE ladies met for the first time this year on February 2 at The Royal British Legion Kingswinford.

Chairman Sheila Evans welcomed all members and the speaker Fiona Lucas, a Guide leader. Business matters were read, approved and signed.

Ahead of the committee meeting today (Thursday), Sheila asked if anyone would like to take on the role of treasurer. A letter was read out from Jean Haddon thanking the ladies for the blankets for the Fistula Hospital at Addis Ababa and for the generous hospitality she received at the Christmas party.

This will be the last time the blankets will be given out due to lack of knitters.

Fiona gave an entertaining and enthusiastic talk about taking a group of Guides on a trip to America in 2016. The girls chose the destination themselves and the trip had to incorporate three ideals, culture, community and celebration of 100 years of Guiding. The girls worked unceasingly to raise money which included Fiona herself doing a tandem skydive.

While in the US, two girls made their vows at the top of The Empire State building, one at the top of The Rockefeller Centre, and one at Disney World. Fiona showed several items collected on their journey and gave everyone a badge. Sylvia Fletcher gave thanks.

### Amblecote History Society

AT the first meeting of 2017, Geoff Longmore opened by welcoming a good audience which included some new faces as visitors.

He then conducted the re-appointment of the committee, adding Sandra Newall and Christine Hatton as new volunteers to play a supportive role, before updating the membership on a number of administrative and news items.

He then proceeded to introduce David Berry to present his light-hearted and entertaining talk based on the theme of ‘A Day in Court’.

His aim was to give a factual overview of how the judiciary system works and the role that the courts, at various levels, have in supporting it.

A round of applause was given at the end in appreciation of his entertaining talk before many detailed questions were asked. Geoff gave a formal ‘thank you’ to David who waived his fee by donating it to Mary Stevens Hospice.

More information about Amblecote History Society is available on Facebook.

## Sadness as club ceases to exist

THE AGM took place at Wordsley Green Community Centre on January 11. Minutes of the 2016 meeting were read, agreed as a true record, and signed by the chairman.

Following procedure, all the existing officers stood down but, as intimated at the last meeting, did not wish to be re-elected.

Unfortunately no one was willing to take on any of the official duties, so with a great deal of sadness the club will cease to exist.

Discussion took place as to the distribution of the accrued funds and agreement was reached to the effect that donations would be distributed between five local charities/voluntary groups.

The tea interval took place for the last time, the raffle was drawn and the meeting ended at 9pm.

For more information or to book, please call:

**01902 902165**

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# Fresh seafood to your door



More than £250,000 has been invested in building Star Feast



Patrick Downham, left, and Steve Money of Star Feast Foods



Star Feast offers a range of seafood, poultry and dried goods

**One of the UK's leading seafood suppliers has launched a new business to target restaurants and the general public.**

Star Agro Marine Foods, which provides more than £9m of sustainable shrimp and related products to supermarkets across the country, has invested over £250,000 into rolling-out Star Feast in the Midlands.

The new company will immediately create five jobs and will be responsible for the wholesale, restaurant, trade counter and home delivery aspect of the original business, with bosses predicting first year sales could top £3m.

A new Tuk Tuk – sourced all the way from

Pune in India – has arrived in the Black Country and will be used to market the new offer, which will include a large range of seafood, poultry and dried goods.

"We have had a fantastic year with the major retailers, with more than £5m of new orders secured over the last twelve months," explained Steve Money, Managing Director.

"However, we don't like to stand still and there's only so much Star Agro shrimp we can supply. We need an alternative approach on the wholesale and home delivery front, which is why we've branched out with the launch of Star Feast."

He continued: "This will focus on growing the trade counter, supplying into more restaurants and marketing our home delivery to the general public. The latter means people can

have fresh seafood and poultry products direct to their door, simply by picking up the phone or placing the order via social media.

"Better still, on certain occasions your delivery will be completed using our authentic Tuk Tuk, which is causing a major stir among fellow motorists in the Black Country."

Wolverhampton-based Star Feast will originally focus on the West Midlands and in developing its full range of products ahead of exhibiting at a number of trade shows later this year.

It is also exploring opportunities to broaden its reach in the South West and London, with plans in place to create a network of supply bases over the coming months. If these deals are completed, more than 8 people will be employed and the range could be as diverse as 75 different products.

This includes cod, king prawns, mussels, pangasius, salmon, squid and tilapia – we've even got fresh water whole fish available. (Pull out quote)

Steve concluded: "The new business is all about understanding what our different customer bases want and a dedicated wholesale offer – with more choice – was at the top of their list."

"We've got lots of exciting plans to secure market share, including the Tuk Tuk marketing campaign and the future launch of a mobile app that will make ordering extremely easy. Minimum orders are just 1kg so it's a great way to have fresh seafood delivered right to your door."

For further information, please visit [www.staragromarine.co.uk](http://www.staragromarine.co.uk) or contact 01902 722963

## Spot the Tuk Tuk

Star Feast's authentic Tuk Tuk will be travelling all over the Black Country over the next few weeks and the company is giving customers the chance to enjoy £10 off their first order when they spend £20 or more.

All you need to do is snap a photo of the Tuk Tuk in action and then tweet @staragro\_uk or message its Facebook page with the image and where you saw it.

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# Eager readers at school get ready for book vote



**Pupils from Dormston School read the nominated books for teens before choosing their favourite**

**YOUNG** readers from secondary schools across the borough are being invited to vote for their favourite book of the year.

The Dudley Teenage Book Awards 2016 is being held for the sixth year in a row to encourage children and teenagers to get into reading.

Six book titles have been nominated and the winner will be announced at a ceremony at Dormston School in Sedgley in March.

Council leaders said the awards are a great way for young people to 'discover new authors' and 'develop a 'life-long love of reading'.

The books that have been nominated are: Cogheart by Peter Bunzl; Swimming to the Moon by Jane Elson; Bubble Boy by Stuart Foster; How to look for a lost dog by Ann Martin; Edge of Extinction by Laura Martin; and Black Powder by Ally Sherrick.

Year 8 students from Dormston's Book Club have been promoting the awards by reading the nominated books.

Sally Ellsmore, library manager at Dormston, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity that our students take part in each year with commitment and enthusiasm. They get excited to read the nominated titles which generates lots of interest. I think it will be anybody's guess who will win. Each book has a completely different subject."

The winner will be chosen at a presentation ceremony at the Dormston Mill Theatre on March 21 from 2pm.

Votes can be cast online through [www.dudley.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/libraries) website. The deadline is March 17. For details contact [donna.taylor@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:donna.taylor@dudley.gov.uk) or call (01384) 812955.

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## Online upgrade for payments

DUDLEY Council's on-line payment system will be unavailable for a short period next week to allow for an essential upgrade.

Chiefs said work will be carried out to ensure it meets the latest security standards, as well as making it quicker and easier for customers to use.

Online payment systems will be unavailable from 7.45pm Tuesday to 11.59pm on Thursday (February 21-23).

For further information call Dudley Council Plus on 0300 555 2345.

## Shoppers brave cold to support new market

SHOPPERS braved chilly temperatures to turn out in force for the launch of the first weekly Saturday street market in Stourbridge.

Stalls selling baked goodies, spicy sauces, candles, cushions and other homemade goods provided shoppers with plenty of variety.

Traders selling fashions and accessories also proved popular with shoppers who braved the cold to check out the first Saturday market.

The food and craft market, which returned to Lower High Street and Coventry Street in the town centre, is being run by LSD Promotions.

Dudley Council's licensing board

gave plans the go ahead in October following a survey in which the public backed the market's return.

Shelley Birch, who runs Babbaloos Bakery, which sells sweet treats as well as special gluten free and vegan products, felt the first Saturday was a success. The 30-year-old from Wolverhampton said: "We managed to completely sell out."

Michael Morgan, from LSD Promotions, added: "Traders were very impressed, despite the weather, and a lot of them have booked again for next week. The public loved it as well and it was seen as a nice feature for the town."



Shelley Birch, who runs Babbaloos cake stall at the market

## Dragon tweets praise for language school

A LANGUAGE school for children run in Stourbridge and Halesowen has received praise from Dragons' Den star Deborah Meaden, despite not securing investment on the hit show.

Lingotot teaches hundreds of pre-school and primary school children modern foreign languages, including at Tiger Lily Day nurseries in Stourbridge and Halesowen. Lingotot founder Angela Sterling entered the Den on the programme broadcast on Sunday, February 4, with a handful of Lingotot students, who showed off their language skills with a song.

Angela was asking for £50,000 to expand services in return for 10 per cent of the business. The family holiday tycoon was the final 'dragon' left considering investment, but in the end she decided against it because of concerns that she could not give Lingotot the time it needed.

On Twitter, Meaden responded to a post from Lingotot expressing their thanks. She replied: "I love your enthusiasm and passion for what you do...really hope it all comes through for you."

Across the country Lingotot teaches 10,000 children to speak a range of foreign languages.



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# Box clever to update your room with style

## ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



OUR ideas in terms of interior design have changed dramatically in recent years, with people moving away from the 'traditional' approach.

There used to be a certain slavish tendency to furnish contemporary homes with modern furniture, Victorian houses with period pieces and so on, which was all very well but it didn't allow for personal character and if you were lucky to live in a Tudor mansion your choice would be somewhat limited!

Now we don't really mind if furniture doesn't match or colour schemes vary, what matters is the overall effect – and often that means incorporating items of vintage furniture to serve a variety of purposes.

Take the humble wooden box, for example.

In the saleroom you can find anything from a 1930s file box or Victorian deed box to an old pine linen chest or a vintage travelling trunk.

The former make lovely jewellery or stationery boxes, the latter are often snapped up in the saleroom for new lives as coffee tables.

The furnishings from old shops are always popular at auction, storage cabinets and shelf stacks can be put to all kinds of new uses and of course advertising boards look great in a modern kitchen.

Old pine washstands can be used as hall tables, dressing tables and even desks (thanks to the increasing use of laptops) and hatstands have seemingly migrated to almost every room in the house.

Old wooden bureaux are still used in vintage-styled home offices but I sold one recently that was destined



to double as a bedroom cupboard – all those little pigeon holes are apparently perfect for cosmetics and small items of jewellery and the drawers are really useful.

Church pews and school benches are bought at auction for halls, kitchens and even sitting rooms and old boot-benches and 'monk' benches are sold for similar uses.

Vintage wooden stepladders no longer safe for their original purpose can be painted up and used as kitchen pot-stands or even plant-stands in a conservatory or garden room.

And what about the sideboard? Once an essential piece of furniture for any home, its popularity has definitely waned in recent decades – but, although it is undoubtedly a bit large for many modern rooms, it can serve a variety of purposes from filing cabinet to kitchen cupboard.

Finally, don't be put off if an item needs a little minor restoration work – it might be easy to restore or even look pretty good in its 'pre-loved' condition.

- Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm.
- The next Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectables takes place at the Mill Street saleroom in Low Town, Bridgnorth, on Tuesday April 4. Viewing will be during the weekend and on the Monday prior to the auction. New sale bidders are advised to attend the saleroom early on auction day to register and be allocated a bidding number.

# Pop on your PJs – even to go shopping?



It's great to have a pyjama day

LAST week I nipped into a supermarket for a pint of milk. It was early in the morning but I was still surprised to see a young girl in her onesie and a young mum in check pyjamas, leopard skin fleecy dressing gown and pink slippers!

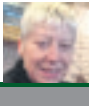
I admit, I am used to my daughter in law, and indeed her friends, relaxing in their T-shirt and leggings sleepwear as soon as they return from work, do the cleaning or enjoy a film day. I love to wear my fleecy onesie while lazing about but I am still shocked to see nightwear for supermarket shopping.

It is big business, most high street and on-line clothing retailers offering a large range of sleepwear and loungewear, often based on leisurewear styling, T-shirts with logos, all in one fleecy suits, sweatshirts, sweatpants and shorts. Whatever your preference there will be something to suit you.

Marks and Spencers (marksandspencers.com) have traditional nightdresses and pyjamas in light cottons and a range of satin and lace designed by the model Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, aptly named Rosie for Autograph, a delightful elegant range of delicate

## STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis



nightwear. Tesco (tesco.com) offer a rose print, pretty and bright, twosies, onesies, teddies, lounge sets, camisoles and shorts and a hooded lounge coatigan that would be really good to wear as a winter warmer jacket. For great value Primark (primark.com) has a large range of night time casual, separates, sportswear influenced leggings, T-shirts, bras and shorts, lots of coordinating cartoon logos, slogans and prints.

If you are looking for something more up-market then look at thewhitecompany.com with its beautifully styled soft jersey items and derek-rose.com who have been producing luxury nightwear since 1926. Pyjamas, night-shirts, sleepsuits and matching kimono gowns in cotton batiste, micro modal and pure silk. Piped edges with neat button opening and cut to fit comfortably.

Esteem-No pause (esteemmanchester.com) produce leisure wear and sleep wear in smooth stretch lycra designed to wick perspiration away from the body, particularly helping with night sweats during the menopause, simple single colour pieces that can also be worn as daywear.

Essential to complete the 'look' are slippers of various designs, Ugg style booties, Crocs, flip flops, moccasins and chunky non-slip sole socks. If you are looking for something more stylish try Ruby and Ed (rubyanded.co.uk), velvet bows, faux fur mules and ballerinas. Mahabis (mahabis.com) produce slippers with a removable sole so they can be worn outside. Today sleepwear and loungewear is so influenced by casual leisurewear and sportswear, there is no surprise they are garments of choice for so many reasons but I am still not sure they should be the attire for shopping, is it really so difficult in today's world to shower and dress before leaving home in the morning?

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Sian Williams has been investigating the vast array of health products available on the high street with co-host Dr Ranj Singh on ITV series Save Money: Good Health

# We should all just stop persecuting ourselves



Tv presenter Sian, 52, is a mother of four

ALTHOUGH Sian Williams acknowledges she's "living with uncertainty" since her battle with breast cancer two years ago, the experience has, she reveals, given her a new and more liberated perspective.

The former host of BBC Breakfast for 11 years was diagnosed a week after her 50th birthday in 2014 and underwent a double mastectomy.

"One of the brilliant doctors who treated me told me at the end of it all. 'You've got to live with uncertainty because there's no clear-cut path ahead,'" she explains.

But knowing that actually made it a lot easier, because after all, we're all living with uncertainty as no one ever knows what's around the corner. That doctor also told me, 'You're lucky, you've got a full and healthy life, just go out, enjoy it and live it.' In the early days, I did have anxious moments thinking, 'Maybe it's back', but then you just get on with things like work and the family and realise there's no point constantly worrying."

The 52-year-old mother-of-four has previously revealed that her biggest fear following her diagnosis was not being able to see her youngest children grow up.

By Lisa Salmon

"Nowadays I just feel very blessed and so fortunate that my cancer was very treatable. I'm in robust good health and all my check-ups, which I will continue to have for years, have been clear." It's taken work and been an effort, she says but she's now able to feel "very positive" about the future.

Health is currently a work focus too as she's been investigating the vast array of health products available on the high street with co-host Dr Ranj Singh on ITV series Save Money: Good Health.

"We spend so much money as a nation on over-the-counter remedies and supplements, because often we're looking for a quick health fix or may be reluctant to go to a doctor. It's about helping viewers decide if they're spending their money wisely and exploring any cheaper alternatives," says Williams. "My dad, John was one of the volunteers testing out products and that was great fun for both of us. I've always been a big vitamin taker, but my father had never taken a pill in his life before taking part in this, and is hugely cynical about supplements and remedies."

Her personal health battle, which she kept secret until May 2016, has made her re-focus her own approach to health and dieting.

"We should all stop persecuting ourselves about what we eat. 'Diet' is a word which reeks of a punishment regime where pleasure doesn't get a look in, and that can't be good for us. I watched my mum on diets while I was growing up and although I'd sworn never to diet myself over the years, I started excluding quite a lot of food groups in the belief it would make me healthier."

She lost her mother and her aunt to cancer, and said: "It's ironic that my husband's never done any of that, and has been known to have things like a couple of doughnuts for breakfast, but I'm the one who got the cancer! Recently I've found out that it's a varied diet which keeps you healthy and if you cut out too many food groups, your gut simply doesn't like it."

Nowadays she avoids imposing 'healthy' rules on herself and says: "I'm kinder to myself. I've had enough of the 'shoulds' and 'should nots' which used to define what I did and instead this year my approach is: 'I might do this or that', which I regard as far better. I've realised if you break the rules you've set yourself, the result is you feel you failed, and who needs that?"

"I focus on looking after the family, having a happy home, and showing compassion to other people. My philosophy is: concentrate on the big stuff and let the small stuff go by the way."



# Offering very best options to help people live their lives

## Commercial feature

**Options for Life is an organisation which works across the West Midlands offering a range of community-based programmes for people with learning disabilities and/or autism.**

With an emphasis on supporting people to live life to the full, we look at learning for life, health for life, creative options and the great outdoors – all offering projects to encourage and promote independence and expression.

Oak Green Services is Options for Life's social business providing a range of gardening, landscaping, property repair and maintenance services across the Black Country and Birmingham. The team is a group of people with learning disabilities who are supported to undertake the work, develop their skills and get real 'on the job' work experience.

WomanZone is exclusively for women with learning disabilities, providing women-only services with access to all of Options for Life's community-based programmes and opportunities.

Making Tracks provides holistic support to adults with profound and multiple learning disabilities and complex health needs. In addition to our workshops and community-based programmes, Making Tracks also provides access to speech and language therapy, hydrotherapy,



Projects are available to encourage and promote independence and expression



physiotherapy, chiropody and occupational therapy.

Branching Out provides opportunities for older people with learning disabilities. Options for Life supports Branching Out participants to extend their social networks and keep

healthy and active within their local community and enjoy full access to our community-based programmes.

One to One Support supports adults with a learning disability to live independently in their own home.

Options for Life can support people with ordinary day-to-day things such as managing money, going shopping, learning to cook and clean. A spokesman says: "We can also help you with bigger events such as finding a new home, finding a college course or job or planning a holiday or trip to visit family and friends. If you are interested in any of the above please call 0121 544 6611 or visit [www.optionsforlife.info](http://www.optionsforlife.info)."



## Day Care for older people

Age UK Sandwell Day Centre is based in Beeches Road West Bromwich, and offers activities for older people aged 50+ including:

- Home cooked meals by our experienced cook.
- Exercise sessions and other physical activities such as Wii bowling to maintain and improve mobility
- Day trips/days out
- Quizzes and other group games
- Support with mobility problems and personal care from NVQ Qualified, trained and experienced care workers
- Transport to and from the Day Centre each day
- Lunch club drop in sessions
- Full day care sessions are provided for older people with dependent or personal care needs, those with very poor mobility and/or have been assessed by Social services and offered a personal budget.

This service costs £26.49 per day with a subscription charge of £7 per day for activities, transport and meals. Lunch club drop in sessions are also available to any older person who wishes to attend social activities and make new friends.

This costs £14 per day for activities and meals plus £2 for transport if required. Taster sessions are available so call now on 0121 525 2499 to arrange your place.



## Volunteering with Age UK Day Care

**We are always looking for people** who can help us at our Day Centre, making cups of tea, helping out in the kitchen or running an activity session.

Our volunteers receive FREE training in care work, so if you would like to apply please contact us on 0121 500 1860.

## Age UK Sandwell Day Care

1a Beeches Road  
West Bromwich  
B70 6QE  
e [daycare@ageuksandwell.org.uk](mailto:daycare@ageuksandwell.org.uk)  
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# Bee-ing kind to nature with seeds giveaway

WITH bee populations on the decline it has never been more important for us – as a nation – to come together to help our bee friends survive.

One company that is stepping up and taking responsibility for the long-term future of the bees is Beefayre – introducing the great ‘Seeds for Bees’ giveaway of 2017.

Beefayre, as its name suggests, is a company that holds bees very close to its heart. Using wholly natural ingredients to create a stunning collection of home and body care products, this year the company has teamed up with the UK’s leading seed supplier, Mr Fothergills, to offer thousands of free seed packets.

This year the ‘Seeds for Bees’ featured flower will be the pollinator and bee friendly Snapdragon. Providing a splash of gorgeous colour in any garden, the Snapdragon is a firm favourite amongst bees as it releases four times more fragrance, drawing bees far and wide to its flower.

Sharon Jervis, founder of Beefayre, said: “The simple fact is that bee populations are on the decline. The long-term impact of this on all aspects of life is unimaginable. We are therefore trying to do everything we can to ensure that our nation’s bees have a future.



The ‘Seeds for Bees’ giveaway is a simple way for anyone and everyone to get involved. By simply planting and tending to their ‘Seeds for Bees’ Snapdragons, they will be offering a much-needed source of pollen.

Whether they are planted on a balcony in the city, or added to a country meadow – this one small act can make a huge difference.”

Getting your hands on a free packet of seed couldn’t be easier.

Simply visit [www.beefayre.com](http://www.beefayre.com) in March, and complete a short form. Your free packet of seeds will then be sent direct to you ready for planting. Each recipient will also receive a special 20 per cent discount voucher for use on purchases of all Beefayre products.

The ‘Seeds for Bees’ giveaway is part of Beefayre’s ongoing commitment to helping the plight of the bee within the UK.

Each year, the company donates three per cent of its profits to bee conservation projects. Beefayre is also dedicated to using natural and wholesome ingredients (free of any petroleum by-products) in its products, ensuring it does not impact on the environment in which it operates.

Handmade in rural England, the current Beefayre portfolio includes beautifully scented candles and room diffusers, bath and body products such as hand creams, lip balms and shower and bath products, and healthcare products such as raw honey and propolis tincture.

Each product in the Beefayre range is also supported by lovingly hand drawn packaging designs. Created by Beefayre founder, Sharon Jervis, the inspiration for which comes from the honey bee and its natural habitat.

To find out more about Beefayre and its products, please visit [www.beefayre.com](http://www.beefayre.com). Alternatively, call the team on (01858) 434492.

## Bee Friendly

Encouraging bees to your garden couldn’t be easier. Follow these simple steps for a rich bee and pollinator ecosystem this summer and beyond.

- Choose a variety of shapes and colours (blue, violet, and purple are the most nectar rich).
- Single-layered petal flowers are easier for our bees to get to rather than double-layered petal-heavy flowers.
- Investigate seasonal plants so our bees are equipped all year, eg. crocus in the waking spring, ivy for the winter, and an abundance of flowers in the summer.
- Lavender, native wildflowers and herb gardens are bee-favourites; and it’s always a case of the more the merrier. Borage and comfrey are champagne to bees.
- Let’s spoil our hardworking bees because more blue and mauve flowers means more bees.
- Don’t pick those dandelions! Dandelion pollen is very rich in fats, a very important energy source for bees and other pollinators, providing an especially rich source of food early spring.
- Your bees will love you for allowing your garden to grow a little wild. Don’t pull up those ‘weeds’ until you’ve checked the species! Leave an area of your garden to be totally wild.
- Consider investing in some solitary bee nesting boxes, or make your own. Position on a south facing wall for maximum sun exposure.
- Consider taking up beekeeping as a hobby



Seed potatoes chitting in egg boxes before being ready to plant out

# Good clean fun getting on with the task of pruning

## ROSS UNDERWOOD



Head Gardener at Hodnet Hall

**AT this time of year one task stands clear above all others.**

It is pruning time which means making sure that your secateurs, loppers, saws and shears are all in tip top condition.

It is certainly worth taking the time and trouble to do this as a ragged and untidy cut means that plants won’t heal well and are prone to disease and infection entering through open wounds.

To sharpen your tools well you will need some WD-40 or similar, some steel wool and some oil. Just as it is important to make a clean cut it is important to have a clean blade.

Hygiene is vitally important as viral or fungal diseases can be transmitted by the gardener with dirty secateurs that are coated in sap.

You can buy specialist products to remove stubborn sap but a little elbow grease when you have nothing better to do works just as well.

Rub the blades (keeping the point away from you) with the wire wool and gradually they will come up clean.

## Greenhouse

Sharpen the blades like you would a good kitchen knife and oil them to prevent rust and so that dirt won’t stick.

I have a small stone that I keep in my pocket so that I can sharpen my secateurs as I use them.

Another area where cleanliness is important is in the greenhouse where any number of nasties can overwinter in nooks and crannies.

Good light is vital to plant growth so the glass will need a good wash down inside and out.

The next step is to insulate it if possible and provide some heat either with a propagator or heat mat if you are going to start seed sowing.

Sweet peas can be sown now in long root trainers or in toilet roll tubes so long as the roots can go down.

Push a couple of seeds into each one that you have filled with moist compost then cover to keep the warmth in. I use old panes of greenhouse glass rather than newspaper or polystyrene as it means the mice can’t get under them.

Mice love sweet pea seeds so it is worth putting a trap or two down as added insurance.

The good thing about sweet peas is that although heat will make them germinate faster it is not absolutely necessary.

Chitting early potatoes is one of the most exciting things to do. I save my egg boxes as they are perfect for holding the potatoes when they are placed inside with the most eyes facing upward. They will need a cool but frost free place such as a window or porch.

# Time to prepare potatoes for the growing season

**GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT – ‘Chitting’ potatoes**  
GARDENERS will now be looking at new spud varieties and growing techniques at Potato Days being held at allotments and nurseries across the country.

Give your seed potatoes a head start by ‘chitting’ them in egg boxes or on a seed tray lined with newspaper on a windowsill. You can buy seed potatoes from garden centres or nurseries. Place the potatoes on the tray or in the boxes, on a warm windowsill.

Leave them to sprout – it takes around six weeks – and when the shoots are 2.5-4cm long, the potato tubers are ‘chitted’ and ready for planting. Chitting is vital for earlies and useful for maincrops.

## BEST OF THE BUNCH – Winter jasmine

THIS eye-catching shrub, with its vibrant yellow flowers which bloom between November and March, is also as tough as they come.

It will put up with terrible soil and shade, you can grow it on a north-facing wall, training it until it reaches its limit of 2.5m x 2.5m (8ft x 8ft) and it won’t mind a bit of neglect so is ideal for gardeners with little time. It is nothing to write

home about in the warmer months, so it’s wise to let it grow through evergreen shrubs or support it with trellis and team it with ivies. While it will withstand the worst of the elements, it doesn’t like early morning sun, which, on frosty mornings, can end up burning the petals, so avoid east-facing sites.

## WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK

- :: Pinch out rhododendron and azalea buds damaged by frost to prevent the spread of disease.
- :: Wash and disinfect seed trays and pots, ready for early spring sowing and planting.
- :: Protect winter-flowering bulbous irises in the garden from severe cold or damp.
- :: Complete the pruning of greenhouse vines while they are still dormant.
- :: On dry days, give your shed or fencing a lift with timber preservative, making sure you don’t splash plants in the process.
- :: Have a quick clear-up, getting rid of debris which might shelter pests such as snails, and sort out your compost heap or bin for the coming season.
- :: Heel in newly-planted bare-root shrubs



Snowdrops and aconites are thrusting into life reminding us that we cannot outrun nature for much longer



Parsnips, sprouts and brassicas can all be harvested now

There is plenty in the garden to bring inside the house if you fancy a bit of colour. I brought a few shoots of Camellia ‘Bow Bells’ in to put on my kitchen table.

This is a superb variety which is often one of the first to flower for me. It produces large single rose pink flowers with a prominent boss of yellow stamens in the centre. It is one of the toughest and the buds will

prove remarkably weather resistant considering the papery quality of the petals.

The ‘Winter Sweet’ or Chimonanthus praecox is flowering now, the yellow flowers with reddish purple centres are strung along bare branches. They give off a powerful spicy fragrance that carries very well in the air outside or in a room where they look well with pussy willow, hazel or alder



It is important to have a clean blade for pruning

catkins and a little ‘Christmas box’. Snowdrops and aconites are thrusting into life reminding us that we cannot outrun nature for much longer whilst parsnips, sprouts and brassicas can all be harvested now and chard provides a welcome bit of colour on the plate. It is a good time for chunky casseroles and warming stews with plenty of sodge. Enjoy!



# fast the ticket

## Going berserk!

Circus tricks galore  
See Page 25



### Royal decree

See Page 25



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## Busted



**Tomorrow, 7pm**  
**O2 Academy, Birmingham**  
Expect a full house for the return of the power pop trio touting new album Night Driver and lots of favourites from the Year 3000.  
See [academymusicgroup.com/o2academybirmingham](http://academymusicgroup.com/o2academybirmingham)

## LeAnn Rhymes



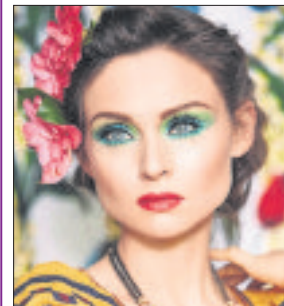
**Tonight, 7pm**  
**Symphony Hall, Birmingham**  
The US singer who crossed over from country to the pop scene to have such hits as Can't Fight The Moonlight and How Do I Live is back with a new album, Remnants.  
See [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk)

## Juan Diego Florez



**Tuesday, 7.30pm**  
**Symphony Hall, Birmingham**  
The acclaimed tenor from Peru will be accompanied by pianist Vincenza Scaleria for a recital including arias by Verdi, Rossini, Puccini and Mozart that will delight classical fans.  
See [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk)

## Sophie Ellis-Bextor



**Tonight, 7pm**  
**O2 Institute 2, Birmingham**  
It will be Murder On The Dancefloor at the Digbeth venue when the pop favourite performs her hits as well as songs from new album Familia.  
See [www.academymusicgroup.com/o2institutebirmingham](http://www.academymusicgroup.com/o2institutebirmingham)

## JAZZ, SOUL, BLUES, REGGAE & MOTOWN

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Artrix,  
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### UB40 - Ultimate 40

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### Jazz Tuesdays

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Birmingham, B12 0NH.  
Call 0121 772 3822

### Kent DuChaine

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The Jam House,  
Birmingham, B3 1QU.  
Call 0121 200 3030

### Bryan Corbett Quartet

Wed,  
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### Ian Parker & his band

Thu, £12.50 - £15  
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.  
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## ROCK & METAL

### Bon Giovi - The International

**Tribute to Bon Jovi**  
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### Paul Carrack

Tonight,  
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### T.Rextasy

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### The Machine Rages On

Tonight, £6  
The RoadHouse Birmingham,  
King Norton, B30 3DZ.  
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### Dreams Of Fleetwood Mac

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### Spring King +

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ST1 1DR.  
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### The Counterfeit Stones

Tomorrow, £13 - £15  
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.  
Call 01902 401211

### The Bon Jovi Experience

Tomorrow,  
Oakengates Theatre,  
Telford, TF2 6EP.  
Call 01952 382382

### Kings Of Leon

Mon,  
Genting Arena, Birmingham,  
B40 1NT.  
Call 0121 780 4141

### Roadhouse Presents: Metal

**Showcase**  
Thu, £4  
The RoadHouse Birmingham,  
King Norton, B30 3DZ.  
Call 0121 246 2273

## FOLK & COUNTRY

### CASH (A tribute to the Man in Black with Full Band)

Tonight,  
O2 Academy Birmingham,  
B1 1DB.  
Call 0121 622 8250

### One Night In Nashville

Tomorrow,  
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,  
ST1 1AP.  
Call 0844 871 7649

### Traditional Irish Music

Mon,  
Spotted Dog, Digbeth,  
Birmingham, B12 0NH.  
Call 0121 772 3822

### Pete Kent

Wed, £7 - £9  
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.  
Call 01902 401211

### Folk & Roots Club

Thu, Free  
The RoadHouse Birmingham,  
King Norton, B30 3DZ.  
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## POP

### Let's Hang On (celebrating Frankie Valli)

Tomorrow, £20 - £22  
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,  
SY3 8FT.  
Call 01743 281281

### Sunday Classics

Sun,  
Spotted Dog, Digbeth,  
Birmingham, B12 0NH.  
Call 0121 772 3822

### Black Magic -

**The Little Mix Show**  
Mon,  
Brierley Hill Civic Hall, DY5 3DH.  
Call 01384 812730

## CLASSICAL

### Orchestra of the Swan:

**Magical Mozart**  
Tonight, £15.50  
Number 8 Community Arts  
Centre, Pershore, WR10 1BG.  
Call 01386 555028

### Orchestra of The Swan:

**Guy Johnston plays Haydn**  
Thu, £20.16 - £30.24  
Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.  
Call 01684 892277

## COMEDY

### Josie Long: Something Better

Tonight,  
The Old Rep Theatre,  
Birmingham, B5 4DY.  
Call 0121 359 9444

### Standup comedy - Sally-Anne

**Hayward, James Cook, Johnny Candon**  
Tonight - tomorrow, £15  
Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham, B1 2HG.  
Call 08700 111 960

### Barnstormers Comedy February

**2017**  
Tomorrow, £14  
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.  
Call 01527 871580

### Roy Chubby Brown

Tomorrow,  
Victoria Hall, Hanley,  
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.  
Call 0844 871 7649

### Standup comedy - Thanyia

**Moore, James Cook, Johnny Candon, Jeff Innocent**  
Tomorrow - Sun, £15  
Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham, B1 2HG.  
Call 08700 111 960

### Justin Moorhouse

Sun, £15  
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,  
SY3 8FT.  
Call 01743 281281

## THEATRE

### Thoroughly Modern Millie

Tonight - tomorrow,  
New Alexandra Theatre,  
Birmingham, B5 4DS.  
Call 0844 871 3011

### Anita And Me

Tonight - tomorrow,  
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,  
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 429212

### Birmingham Royal Ballet - First

**Steps, a child's first Cinderella**  
Tonight, £10  
Birmingham Hippodrome,  
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

### Romeo and Juliet

Tonight - Thu,  
Hall Green Little Theatre,  
Birmingham, B27 7RY.  
Call 0121 707 1874

### Cinderella

Tonight - Thu, £16  
Birmingham Hippodrome,  
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

### Don't Go Into The Cellar!

**Presents Penny Dreadful! Or, Mrs Lovett's Revenge!**  
Tomorrow, Thu,  
Newman Brothers at the Coffin  
Works, Birmingham, B3 1JP.  
Call 0121 2334790

### A Judgement in Stone

Mon - Thu,  
New Alexandra Theatre,  
Birmingham, B5 4DS.  
Call 0844 871 3011

### Bedtime Stories

Tue - Thu,  
Victoria Hall, Hanley,  
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.  
Call 0844 871 7649

### Thriller Live

Tue - Thu,  
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,  
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 429212

### Some Guys Have All the Luck -

**The Rod Stewart Story**  
Thu,  
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,  
ST1 1AP. Call 0844 871 7649

## MISC. EVENTS

### The Edgbaston Stadium

**Antiques, Collectors & Vintage Fair**  
Sun, £2 - £3  
Edgbaston Stadium, Birmingham,  
B5 7QU. Call 0844 635 1902

### Cirque Berserk!

Mon - Thu,  
Birmingham REP Theatre,  
Library of Birmingham,  
B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

### MAC Explorers: Dance

Wed,  
MAC Theatre, Cannon Hill Park,  
Birmingham, B3 1QU.  
Call 0121 200 3030

## ARTS & CULTURE

### Identification Day with

**Henry Sandon MBE**  
Tomorrow, £3  
Museum of Royal Worcester,  
WR1 2ND.  
See [www.museumofroyalworcester.org](http://www.museumofroyalworcester.org)

### Anatomy Lab

**LIVE! BIRMINGHAM**  
Tomorrow - Sun,  
Cuttle Bridge Hotel,  
Minworth,  
Birmingham,  
B76 9DP.  
Call 01675 639063

### Living History at

**The Commandery**  
Tomorrow - Sun,  
The Commandery,  
Sibbury, Worcester, WR1 2HU.  
Call 01905 361821

### Short Introductory Talk:

**Help and Healing on the Spiritual Path**  
Tomorrow,  
The Polish Millenium Centre,  
Birmingham, B5 5PH.  
Call 0121 643 3577

### Understanding Material Loss

Tomorrow,  
The University of Birmingham,  
Edgbaston, B15 2TT.  
Call 0121 414 4117

### Ceramic Crafts

Tomorrow - Thu, £3 - £4  
The Ironbridge Gorge Museums,  
Coalbrookdale, TF8 7DQ.  
Call 01952 433 424

### Photographic Prize 2017

Today - Thu,  
RBSA Gallery,  
Birmingham, B3 1SA.  
Call 0121 236 4353

### Draw Something KS3

Mon,  
MAC Theatre, Cannon Hill Park,  
Birmingham, B3 1QU.  
Call 0121 200 3030

### Love Worcester! Love Nature!

Mon,  
Worcester City Art Gallery,  
WR1 1DT.  
Call 01905 25371

### Messy Museum

Mon,  
Wrexham Museums, LL14 4HT.  
Call 01978 292000

### Fantastic Beasts

Mon - Thu,  
Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre,  
Craven Arms, SY7 9RS.  
Call 01588 676060

### Uncovering Mysteries

Tue,  
The Commandery,  
Sibbury, Worcester, WR1 2HU.  
Call 01905 361821

### Explore Learning Workshop

Tue,  
Creative Coffee Hub,  
Birmingham, B29 6HJ.  
Call 01215 727300

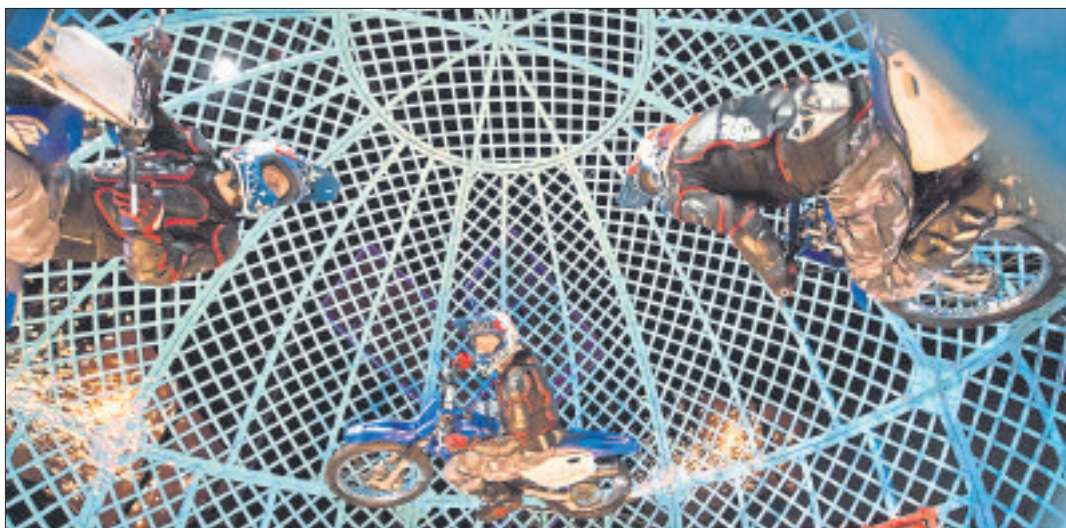
### So You Think You

**Know About Dinosaurs**  
Tue,  
Malvern Theatres,  
WR14 3HB.  
Call 01684 892277

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star



# Focus on human skills and thrills at the circus



The Lucius motorcycle stunt rider team hurtle around the Globe of Terror at 60mph in the Cirque Berserk show coming to Birmingham Rep

**ROLL up, roll up for the greatest show in Brum as Cirque Berserk, a circus show designed for theatres rather than a big top, comes to Birmingham Rep.**

The thrilling stunt action and circus skills extravaganza, which also boasts a fire breathing giant robot, returns to the Centenary Square venue by popular demand.

This circus follows a no-animals policy with the emphasis on the incredible abilities of the human performers.

These include the Globe of Terror – if you thought the Wall of Death was a scary motorcycle stunt, wait until you see four bikers speeding around the inside of a steel cage at over 60mph.

The troupe of more than 30 performers includes acrobats, jugglers and aerial acts. Among the star turns are Czech knife thrower Toni, who also hurls axes; Mongolian contortionist

Odka, who can accurately fire an arrow from a bow using her feet; the Timbuktu Tumblers with their human pyramids; and master of slapstick Tweedy the clown.

Cirque Berserk are at Birmingham Rep from Monday to Sunday (February 20-26), including Friday, Saturday and Sunday matinees.

For tickets cost from £15 to £30 (concessions and group discounts available), see [www.birmingham-rep.co.uk](http://www.birmingham-rep.co.uk) or call 0121 236 4455.



## Family first for rock Kings

THEY were once the hardest-partying band on the road. Kings of Leon boozed their way through the noughties, carousing around the world as their six studio albums racked up millions of sales, propelled them to number one around the globe and earned them 68 platinum discs.

Kings of Leon comprise brothers Caleb Followill, on vocals, alongside drummer Nathan and bassist Jared with cousin Matthew on lead guitar. They formed in 1999 in Nashville fusing southern rock and blues, and developed their sound on their way to becoming a stadium band.

By 2011 Kings of Leon were playing to 50,000 festival fans after their hit, *Sex on Fire*, had taken them to the top of the bill. Band members weren't talking to each other, they were travelling in separate cars.

Nathan says the band had to take a break. "We got to take a little time away and be with our families and get to be husbands and daddies for a while, and not musicians. Now three of us have kids, and we're all married, so the priorities change as your family grows."

### Lyrics

"This record was a little different because we did have so much time off. We all went into the studio having not been together for a while, musically, and it was cool to see where our heads were musically. Caleb does a majority of the lyrics but this record was the first one in a while where we were all very involved lyrically and was kind of a team effort."

All four Followills are married and all but Jared are parents. "Our kids all go to the same school," says Matthew. Nathan adds: "You can tell us apart from the other parents – we're the ones smoking weed underneath the bleachers."

Kings of Leon play the Genting Arena at the NEC on Monday.

### One and only Chesney with Chip in Robin 2 line-up

TWO talented Black Country musicians will be performing at Bilston venue the Robin 2 next week.

On Wednesday Wolverhampton's Pete Kent brings his unique percussive fingerstyle of acoustic guitar playing, which has seen him win plaudits from top musicians. Support comes from Tom Rushton and Dom Robson Tull at this all-seated show. Tickets are £9 on the door, cheaper in advance. On Thursday (February 23) Strat-wielding local bluesman Ian Parker and his Band are at the Mount Pleasant venue. Tickets £12.50 advance or £15 door.

Other highlights include The Counterfeit Stones this Saturday and a father-and-son gig on Sunday by 'The One and Only' Chesney Hawkes and father Chip, formerly of The Tremeloes, at this seated show. See [therobin.co.uk](http://therobin.co.uk) or call 01902 401211.

### Everthing is Awesome as indie pop twins visit

CANADIAN pop twins Tegan and Sara, of The Lego Movie hit *Everything Is Awesome*, are at Birmingham O2 Institute on Saturday. The same venue hosts Liverpoolian boyband MiC LOWRY on Sunday, US indie rock outfit Band of Horses on Monday and Norfolk rockers Deaf Havana with *Dinosaur Pile Up* on Tuesday.

Punk bands Sad Sally, Clobber and Rich Gulag play the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath on Sunday, and the pub venue hosts the hard to pronounce duo Tonstartssbandh on Tuesday and US dream pop band Wild Nothing on Wednesday. Shush and The Harringtons share a five band bill at Brum's Sunflower Lounge on Saturday. Greek metal outfit Firewind play Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms on Saturday. Superstar rapper Drake is at the Barclaycard Arena on Wednesday and Thursday.

### Dance, mystery and a serious drama on stage

A WIDE variety of theatre is on offer, from ballet and a pop musical, to circus (see above), a whodunnit and drama.

Michael Jackson tribute musical *Thriller* is at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre Tuesday to Saturday. Birmingham Royal Ballet return to the Hippodrome to perform family favourite *Cinderella* until February 25. Whilst the main house at Birmingham Rep hosts *Cirque Berserk*, a powerful new play is at its studio theatre *The Door*. All *The Little Lights* (February 22-25) tells of the friendship of three teenage girls, preyed on by abusers.

The Agatha Christie Theatre Company, with a cast including Sophie Ward, Mark Wynter and Shirley Ann Field, stage Ruth Rendell's *A Judgement In Stone* at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

## Short Breaks & Holiday

from only £79!

**SHOWTIME** With inclusive admission to top shows & acts in 2017!

### Olly Murs Live in Liverpool

Thu 16 March £139

**What's included?**

- Coach travel with reserved seating
- One night dinner, bed & breakfast at our select hotel
- Included visits to Trafford Centre and Liverpool
- Inclusive admission to watch Olly Murs live in concert at Liverpool Echo Arena.



### 2 DAY SHOWTIME BREAKS

Sat 4 Mar	Sunny Afternoon & Historic York	£119
Sat 11 Mar	Beautiful - The Carole King Musical - London Showtime	£139
Sat 11 Mar	The Lion King - London Showtime	£149
Fri 17 Mar	The Magic of Motown & Liverpool	£99
Sat 18 Mar	The Full Monty & Historic York	£99
Mon 20 Mar	Llandudno Grand & Anton and Erin	£209
Sat 25 Mar	Justin's Party & Blackpool Fun Time	£99
Sat 1 Apr	Bay City Rollers - Les McKeown - Live	£99
Wed 5 Apr	The Who - Live in Manchester	£159
Sat 8 Apr	London & Star Wars Identities at the O2	£99
Wed 12 Apr	Babe Live! & Blackpool Fun Time	£89
Sat 15 Apr	Thriller Live & Historic York	£99
Sat 15 Apr	Les Miserables - London Showtime	£149
Sat 15 Apr	Aladdin - London Showtime	£149

### NATIONAL SPORTS

Sensational Sports Breaks....

### 2 DAY SPORT BREAKS

Sat 15 Apr	Liverpool & Haydock Races - Easter Special	£99
Sat 13 May	Liverpool & Haydock Races	£99
Sat 13 May	Women's FA Cup Final - Wembley	£99
Sat 20 May	Non-League Firsts Day - Wembley Stadium	£99
Sat 20 May	FA Vase & FA Trophy Finals - Wembley	£99
Sat 20 May	British Touring Car Championship - Oulton Park	£119
Sat 27 May	Liverpool & Chester Races	£99
Sat 27 May	Truckfest Spectacular & Oxford	£99
Sat 1 Jul	Liverpool & Chester Races	£99
Sat 5 Aug	Liverpool & Chester Races	£99
Sat 5 Aug	England v South Africa - Old Trafford	£129
Sat 12 Aug	Liverpool & Haydock Races	£99
Sat 26 Aug	Ebor Stakes - York Races	£119
Sat 2 Sep	Burghley Horse Trials	£90

### Betway Premier League Darts Live!

Thu 13 April £99

**What's included?**

- Coach travel with reserved seating throughout
- One night dinner, bed & breakfast at our select hotel
- A visit to Liverpool
- Inclusive admission to the Betway Premier League Darts at the Liverpool Echo Arena.



### Explore Europe Explore the best of Europe....

### Ostend All Inclusive

Mon 6 March £239 Mon 27 March £249

Mon 20 March £249

**What's included?**

- Coach travel with reserved seating throughout
- Four nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the New Astoria Hotel
- Use of the indoor swimming pool at the Royal Astoria Hotel
- Evening entertainment
- 3 nights free bar between 8:30-Midnight (Selected Drinks Only)
- Inclusive excursion to medieval Bruges.

### 4/5/7 DAY EUROPEAN BREAKS

Mon 27 Feb	5 Rhine & Moselle All Inclusive	£199
Mon 27 Feb	5 Rhine Valley Superdeal	£169
Sun 5 Mar	7 Lake Garda & Venice All-Inclusive	£339
Sun 5 Mar	7 Rome and Taste of Italy	£319
Mon 6 Mar	4 Ostend Special Breakaway	£139
Mon 6 Mar	5 Three Countries Inclusive Special	£199
Mon 6 Mar	5 Rhine & Moselle All Inclusive	£209
Mon 6 Mar	5 Ostend Superdeal	£219
Mon 6 Mar	5 Rhine Valley Superdeal	£189
Fri 10 Mar	4 Ostend Inclusive Weekend	£189
Fri 10 Mar	4 Ostend Weekend Superdeal	£149
Fri 10 Mar	4 Paris Weekend Superdeal	£149
Fri 10 Mar	4 Disneyland Spectacular at The Kyriad	£279
Fri 10 Mar	4 Disneyland Spectacular at Dream Castle	£359

### Special Events

Enjoy admission to sensational Special Events.

### 2 DAY SPECIAL EVENTS BREAKS

Sat 15 Apr	Emmerdale - The Village Tour	£99
Sat 20 May	Emmerdale - The Village Tour	£99
Sat 17 Jun	Emmerdale - The Village Tour	£119
Sat 15 Apr	Victoria at Harewood House	£89
Sat 22 Apr	London & The Tall Ships Regatta Easter Special	£119
Sat 22 Apr	Skipiton Market & Harrogate Flower Show	£99
Sat 22 Apr	Colswolds Warline 1940's Special	£89
Tue 25 Apr	Gino's Italian Escape - Live!	£99
Sat 6 May	The London Motor Show	£99
Sat 13 May	Hobbycrafts, Stitch & Sew - Live!	£79
Sat 13 May	Abingdon Airshow & Historic Bath	£99
Sat 27 May	Chelsea Flower Show	£169
Sat 10 Jun	Ideal Home Show & Liverpool	£79
Sat 24 Jun	Victoria at Harewood House	£89

### Flying Scotsman Special

Mon 3 April £119

**What's included?**

- Coach travel with reserved seating throughout
- One night dinner, bed & breakfast at our select hotel
- Visit to York
- Journey on the Worth Valley Railway onboard Flying Scotsman.



### Family Fun

Great breaks for all the family!

### Islands at Chester Zoo & Llangollen Cruise

Sat 1 April £99 Sat 29 July £99

Sat 29 April £99 Sat 19 August £99

Sat 10 June £99

**What's included?**

- Coach travel with reserved seating throughout
- One night dinner, bed & breakfast at our select hotel
- Inclusive admission to Chester Zoo
- Visit to Llangollen with a horse-drawn canal boat cruise plus scenic drive over the Horseshoe Pass.

### 2 DAY FAMILY FUN BREAKS

Sat 18 Mar	Legoland Spectacular	£99
Sat 25 Mar	London & Harry Potter Studio Tour	£119
Thu 6 Apr	London & Harry Potter Studio Tour	£119
Thu 13 Apr	London & Harry Potter Studio Tour	£119
Sat 15 Apr	Polar Bears, Penguins & Kingdom of Ice	£99
Sat 15 Apr	Legoland Spectacular	£119
Sat 15 Apr	London & Harry Potter Studio Tour	£119
Sat 22 Apr	Longleat Safari Park, Jungle Cruise & Windsor	£99
Sat 22 Apr	Legoland Discovery & Blackpool Fun Time	£89
Sat 20 May	Polar Bears, Penguins & Kingdom of Ice	£99
Sat 20 May	London & Harry Potter Studio Tour	£119
Sat 27 May	Longleat Safari Park, Jungle Cruise & Windsor	£99
Sat 3 Jun	Legoland Discovery & Blackpool Fun Time	£89
Sat 10 Jun	London & Harry Potter Studio Tour	£119

To book go to [nationalholidays.com](http://nationalholidays.com)

formerly Travelstyle  
**0844 571 4867**

**PLUS!!!** MANY MORE breaks available...





## CHOICE



Gary Barlow

**Let It Shine (BBC1, 6.55pm)**  
The semi-final of the star-making talent hunt arrives, and only four bands remain in the competition. This time, the would-be pop icons are tested on their dance skills, but before the contest gets under way, they first join Take That on stage for an opening performance taking the form of a medley of the veteran boy-band's greatest hits. Once the competition opens, judges Gary Barlow, Dannii Minogue, Martin Kemp and a special mystery guest get down to the business of appraising the boys' performances as usual. At the end of the show, Graham Norton and Mel Giedroyc open the voting lines, giving viewers at home a chance to champion their favourite act.

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast.** **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** **11.30 The Little Paris Kitchen:** Cooking with Rachel Khoo. (R) **12.00 Football Focus.** **1.00 BBC News.** **1.15 Live Athletics:** Birmingham Indoor Grand Prix. Coverage from the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham. **4.30 Final Score.** **5.10 BBC News.** **5.20 Regional Programme.** **5.25 Who Dares Wins.** **6.10 Pointless Celebrities.** A "law and order" special, with Helen Fraser, Victoria Alcock, Roberta Taylor, Chris Ellison, Arthur Bostrom, Mina Anwar, Dominic Littlewood and Matt Allwright. (R) **6.55 Let It Shine.** The semi-final arrives, and the four remaining boy-bands display their dance skills, before Graham Norton and Mel Giedroyc give viewers a chance to champion their favourite act. **7.55 Casualty.** Iain is unexpectedly reunited with his sister when he is called out to an emergency involving his mother, but his efforts to make amends for his past have unforeseen repercussions. The hospital is inundated with binge drinkers, including a hen party that has ended with the bride getting shot with a bow and arrow. Dylan struggles to cope, but the experience gives him an idea. Grace returns to work, but seems to have lost her ability to talk. **8.45 Let It Shine - The Results.** The top two bands from the viewer vote progress to the final as the results arrive, leaving the bottom two to fight for the third spot - but the judges have a twist in store. **9.15 Taboo.** James Delaney loses everything, and as the Crown and the East India Company conspire against him, a betrayal places even his freedom in jeopardy. **10.15 BBC News:** Weather; National Lottery Update. **10.30 MOTD: FA Cup Highlights.** Action from the fifth round of matches, including Huddersfield Town v Manchester City and Middlesbrough v Oxford United. **11.40 This Country.** Daisy May and Charlie Cooper's documentary continues, as Kerry's neighbour Mandy Harris opens a tattoo business. **12.05 Film:** Having You. (2013) **1.40 Weather for the Week Ahead.** **1.45 BBC News.**

## BBC2

**6.30 Film:** Stage Door. (1937) **7.55 Film:** Lucky Jim. (1957) **9.30 Coast.** **10.00 Britain's Secret Seas.** (R) **11.00 Homes Under the Hammer.** (R) **12.00 A Cook Abroad:** John Torode's Argentina. (R) **1.00 Talking Pictures:** John Hurt. **1.30 Film:** An Ideal Husband. (1999) **Oscar Wilde** comedy drama, starring Cate Blanchett. **3.00 Escape to the Country.** (R) **3.45 Mastermind.** (R) **4.15 University Challenge.** (R) **4.45 Only Connect.** (R) **5.15 Nature's Wildest Events.** (R) **6.00 Flog It!** David Barry and Catherine Southon view antiques at Buckland Abbey in Devon, including a French revolver and a bisque baby doll. Paul Martin also studies an ancient maths book, and is taken for a ride at the Dingles Fairground Heritage Centre. (R) **7.00 The Lake District: A Wild Year.** Cutting-edge camera techniques offering a new and unique perspective on a turbulent year in the life of England's largest national park. Narrated by Bernard Cribbins. (R) **8.00 Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands.** New series. Paul Murton returns to explore more of the remote and fascinating places that lie off the mainland, beginning by visiting Bernaray, Grimsay, Kirkbost and Pabbay. **8.30 Dad's Army.** The platoon defends headquarters in an exercise against members of the Highland Regiment. Classic episode from 1969, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R) **9.00 Film:** Testament of Youth. (2014) Premiere. When her fiancé and brother are sent to the front line during the early days of the First World War, a young woman gives up her studies at Oxford University to follow them. She becomes a nurse, and the horrors she witnesses during the conflict change her outlook on life forever. Period drama based on the memoirs of writer Vera Brittain, starring Alicia Vikander, Kit Harington and Taron Egerton. **11.05 Film:** Safe Haven. (2013) A woman trying to make a fresh start in a coastal town realises she must confront the dark past she is running from. Romantic drama, with Julianne Hough. **12.55 Film:** The White Ribbon. (2009) **3.10 This is BBC Two.**

## ITV

**6.00 CITV:** The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.20 Dino Dan:** Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.30 Dino Dan:** Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45 Sooty.** (R) **6.55 Signed Stories:** Share a Story. (R) **7.00 Oddbods.** (R) **7.05 Thunderbirds Are Go.** (R) **7.30 Scrambled!** Scrambled! **7.35 Scrambled!** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.10 Scrambled!** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.30 Scrambled!** Bear Grylls Survival School. **9.05 Scrambled!** Adventure Time. (R) **9.25 TV News.** **9.30 Alphabetical.** (R) **10.30 Guess This House.** (R) **11.25 Judge Rinder.** (R) **12.25 TV News:** Weather. **12.35 River Monsters.** (R) **1.05 Tipping Point.** (R) **2.05 The Chase.** (R) **3.10 Dance Dance Dance.** (R) **4.40 Regional Programme:** Weather. **4.55 TV News:** Weather. **5.10 Film:** Despicable Me. (2010) Animated comedy, with the voice of Steve Carell. **7.00 Ninja Warrior UK.** The final round of the obstacle-course challenge arrives, as Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara invite the most successful participants from throughout this series to return to the course and put their strength, speed and agility to the test once again. Last in the series. **8.00 The Voice UK.** The spinning-chair singing contest reaches a crucial stage, as Emma Willis introduces the seventh and final Blind Audition. As always, another selection of would-be stars are ushered onto the stage to perform, unseens by judges Jennifer Hudson, Gavin Rossdale, Will.i.am and Tom Jones, who must signal their approval by turning their chairs. Next week, the judges' teams are forced to face off in the Battle phase. **9.20 Through the Keyhole.** Keith Lemon hosts a revival of the classic game show originally presented by David Frost. Celebrity panelists David Haye, Samia Longchambon and Dave Brown are given a guided tour to three mystery homes, and are challenged to guess the identities of the famous occupants. **10.20 TV News:** Weather. **10.35 Film:** Knocked Out. (2007) An ambitious journalist unexpectedly becomes pregnant after a one-night stand with a directionless layabout. Romantic comedy, starring Seth Rogen. **12.50 Jackpot247.** **3.00 Who's Doing the Dishes?** (R) **3.10 TV Night.**

## CHANNEL 4

**6.20 The King of Queens.** (R) **6.45 The King of Queens.** (R) **7.10 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.30 Frasier.** (R) **9.00 Frasier.** (R) **9.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **9.55 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **10.25 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **10.55 The Simpsons.** (R) **11.25 The Simpsons.** (R) **12.00 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast.** (R) **1.00 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **1.30 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **2.00 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **2.30 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **3.00 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **3.35 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun.** (R) **4.35 Location, Location, Location.** (R) **5.35 Grand Designs.** (R) **6.30 Channel 4 News.** **7.00 The Restoration Man.** George Clarke returns to Brixham in Devon, where he previously met Neil Worrell and Jackie Robinson, who moved in to an old fisherman's church 18 months ago. Now, the pair are busy running their adopted town's tourist attraction - a replica of Sir Frances Drake's ship the Golden Hind. He also visits Dartmoor, where he is stunned to find ambitious renovator Neil has just bought 200 square metres of mysterious underground corridors. **8.00 Great Canal Journeys.** Timothy West and Prunella Scales take a two-stage trip across Scotland, travelling along the Caledonian Canal before venturing on a 60-mile journey into the Highlands. (R) **9.00 Film:** Taken 2. (2012) Former CIA agent Bryan Mills and his ex-wife Lenore are taken hostage in Istanbul by an Albanian gangster, whose son Bryan killed while bringing down a kidnapping ring. He is able to escape with the aid of his daughter, and together they fight to rescue Lenore and wipe out the criminal family. Action thriller sequel, starring Liam Neeson, Maggie Grace and Famke Janssen. **10.50 Film:** The Bourne Legacy. (2012) A government assassin goes on the run when his employers try to bury their dark secrets by having him killed. Spy thriller sequel, with Jeremy Renner and Rachel Weisz. **1.20 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA.** (R) **2.15 Hollyoaks.** **4.15 Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free.** (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake!** **10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R) **10.35 Access.** **10.40 Police Interceptors.** (R) **11.40 Police Interceptors.** (R) **12.35 Benefits:** 26 Kids and Claiming. (R) **1.35 Benefits:** The Millionaire Spinoff. (R) **2.35 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** (R) **3.35 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** (R) **4.30 5 News Weekend.** **4.35 Nightmare Tenants.** Slum Landlords. (R) **5.30 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** (R) **5.30 FIA Formula E Live: Buenos Aires.** The Buenos Aires ePrix. Coverage of the third round of the campaign from Puerto Madero Street Circuit in Argentina. This is the only circuit to have featured in all three seasons of this motor racing championship, and has proven to be a successful venue for Great Britain's Sam Bird, who recorded the fastest lap here in 2015, and then went on to win the race in 2016. **6.10 Secrets of the Great Train Robbery.** Crime documentary, detailing the many mistakes, bad decisions and careless errors made by the gang responsible for the Royal Mail train robbery of August 8, 1963. **9.00 Football on 5: The Championship.** George Riley and Lynsey Higgrave provide highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Birmingham City v Queens Park Rangers at St Andrew's, Barnsley v Brighton & Hove Albion at Oakwell, and Wigan Athletic v Preston North End at DW Stadium. **10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush.** All the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Sheffield United v Scunthorpe United and Hartlepool United v Plymouth Argyle. **10.30 NCIS.** An investigation into the death of a retired US Navy lieutenant commander forces Ducky to reveal he has been helping to solve crimes in his spare time. **11.25 NCIS: Los Angeles.** Deeks places his job in danger when he shoots and kills an unarmed man, prompting unexpected emotions for Kensi as she contemplates losing her partner. (R) **12.15 SuperCasino.** **3.10 Magic Makes You Laugh Out Loud.** (R) **4.00 On Benefits:** To Heat or to Eat? That's the Question. (R) **4.50 House Doctor.** (R) **5.15 Nick's Quest.** (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Indian Hill Railways **8.00** Ford's Dagenham Dream **9.00** Treasures of Ancient Egypt **10.00** Easter Island: Mysteries of a Lost World **11.30** Top of the Pops: 1983 **12.05** Rock 'n' Roll America **3.05** Sounds of the 70s **2: Soul - Keep on Keeping on 3.35** Close  
**ITV2**  
**11.20** Ninja Warrior UK **12.20** Take Me Out **1.35** You've Been Framed! **Gold 2.10** Film: Honey (2003) **3.10** FYI Daily **3.15** Film: Honey (2003) **4.05** Film: St Trinian's (2007) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10** Film: St Trinian's (2007) **5.15** Film: After Earth (2013) **7.05** FYI Daily **7.10** Film: After Earth (2013) **8.00** Scorpion **9.00** Film: Hot Fuzz (2007) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: Hot Fuzz (2007) **11.25** Family Guy **12.50** American Dad! **1.05** Release the Hounds: Famous & Freaked **2.35** Planet's Funniest Animals **3.00** Teleshopping  
**ITV3**  
**11.05** Film: Columbo: Butterfly in Shades of Grey (1993) **1.05** Film: Carry On Matron (1972) **2.05** FYI Daily **2.10** Film: Carry On Matron (1972) **2.55** Film: Carry On Follow That Camel (1967) **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00** Film: Carry On Follow That Camel (1967) **4.55** Wycliffe **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Law & Order: UK **12.00** Wycliffe **1.05** Marchlands **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping  
**ITV4**  
**11.00** Counting Cars **12.00** Pawn Stars **1.30** ITV Racing **4.00** Film: Rio Bravo (1959) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10** Film: Rio Bravo (1959) **6.55** River Monsters **9.05** Film: The Specialist (1994) **10.10** FYI Daily **10.15** Film: The Specialist (1994) **11.20** Film: Exit Wounds (2001) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.25** Film: Exit Wounds (2001) **1.30** Hell on Wheels **2.55** Hogan's Heroes **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping  
**E4**  
**11.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **12.00** The Goldbergs **3.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Knight and Day (2010) **10.10** Gogglebox 2016 **11.50** Gogglebox: Celebrity Special For Stand Up To Cancer **1.00** Celebs Go Dating **3.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.45** Rude(ish) Tube **4.25** Baby Daddy **5.10** Revenge  
**Film4**  
**11.00** ParaNorman (2012) **1.00** Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer (2011) **2.45** Scrooged (1988) **4.50** Moonrise Kingdom (2012) **6.40** Tootsie (1982) **9.00** St Vincent (2014) **11.05** Zombieland (2009) **12.50** Stripes (1981) **3.20** Close

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CHOICE



Sam Riley

**SS-GB (BBC1, 9pm)**  
New series. Drama set in an alternate history of the Second World War where Germany won the Battle of Britain and has gone on to occupy the UK. In 1941, two Scotland Yard detectives investigate the murder of a nuclear scientist, under constant surveillance from their SS superiors. The arrival of an American journalist leaves one of the policemen convinced something more danger is at work - while a contact in a resistance movement reveals a threat to his own son. Sam Riley, Kate Bosworth, Rainer Bock, Aneurin Barnard, Christina Cole, Maeve Dermody, Lars Eidinger and James Cosmo.

BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast. 7.50 MOTD:** FA Cup Highlights. (R) **9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 12.00 BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Film: Shrek Forever After. (2010)** Animated comedy, with the voice of Mike Myers. **1.40 Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup. Fulham v Tottenham Hotspur (Kick-off 2.00pm).** **4.05 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.50 Lifeline. 5.00 Songs of Praise. 5.35 BBC News. 5.50 Regional Programme.** **6.00 The Big Painting Challenge.** Mariella Frostrup and Rev Richard Coles take the contestants on a trip to Hastings, where they must put their landscape painting skills to the test by working in the open air – and the weather turns out to be against them. The first challenge sees them capturing the town's newly refurbished pier on canvas, before they are turned in the opposite direction to paint the view of the shoreline from the pier. A panel made of local residents choose their favourite painting, before the judges announce who will be leaving the show. **7.00 Countryfile.** Ellie Harrison helps with the annual clean-up at Cheddar Gorge, abseiling down the cliffs to check for dangerous loose rocks and helping volunteers to clear back the undergrowth. Including Weather for the Week Ahead. **8.00 Call the Midwife.** Trixie tries her hand at the annual, while the nurses discuss what has happened to Sister Mary Cynthia, a revelation that has distressing consequences. **9.00 SS-GB.** New series. Drama set in an alternate history of the Second World War where Britain is under German occupation. Two Scotland Yard detectives investigate the murder of a scientist. **10.00 BBC News. 10.20 Regional Programme. 10.30 MOTD: FA Cup Highlights.** Action from the fifth round of matches, featuring Blackburn Rovers v Manchester United, and Fulham v Tottenham Hotspur. **11.10 American High School.** A revelation about the captain of the basketball team's personal life threatens his future. **11.55 The Celebrity Apprentice USA. 1.20 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.25 BBC News.**

BBC2

**6.30 Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) 7.30 An Island Parish. (R) 8.00 Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) 9.00 Countryfile. (R) 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.30 Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. (R) 12.00 Nigellissima. (R) 12.30 A Cook Abroad: Rick Stein's Australia. (R) 1.30 Omar Sharif: Talking Pictures. (R) 2.00 Film: Funny Lady. (1975) Musical comedy sequel, starring Barbra Streisand. **4.15 Birds of Paradise: The Ultimate Quest. (R) 5.15 Ski Sunday. 6.00 Film: Oz the Great and Powerful. (2013)** An arnold circus illusionist is transported to a magical land, where he is mistaken for a powerful wizard prophesied to fall from the sky and save the realm from evil. His attempt to take advantage of the situation leads him into a dangerous quest involving three powerful witches. Fantasy adventure prequel to The Wizard of Oz, starring James Franco, Mila Kunis, Rachel Weisz and Michelle Williams. **8.00 Dragons' Den.** Deborah Meaden, Peter Jones, Touker Suleyman, Sarah Willingham and Nick Jenkins assess the profit-making potential of a self-igniting wood-burning stove, a new kind of dating app, a range of authentic ethnic snacks and a fitness company for children. Presented by Evan Davis. **9.00 Special Forces – Ultimate Hell Week.** Reggie Yates brings the contestants to South Korea to train under an officer from the country's Underwater Demolition Team. The recruits face a series of gruelling challenges, including dragging truck tyres up hills, carrying boats on their heads and facing the ultimate exercise known as the Thinking Man Position. **10.00 Film: Being AP. (2015)** Premiere. Documentary about jockey AP McCoy, following him as he weighs up his desire to score a record-breaking number of victories with the pressure to retire from horse racing. **11.40 Film: Defiance. (2008)** Three Jewish brothers escape into the forests during the Nazi invasion of Poland and form a resistance movement. Second World War drama, starring Daniel Craig and Jamie Bell. **1.45 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) 2.45 Holby City. (R) 3.45 This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes.****

ITV

**6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! 6.20 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.30 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.45 Sooty. (R) 6.55 Signed Stories. (R) 7.00 Oddbods. (R) 7.05 Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) 7.30 Scrambled. 7.35 Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) 7.50 Ultimate Spider-Man. 8.20 Horrid Henry. (R) 8.45 Teen Titans Go! 9.05 Adventure Time. (R) 9.25 ITV News. **9.30 Countrywise: Guide to Britain. (R) 10.00 Peston on Sunday. 10.55 Gino's Italian Escape: Hidden Italy. (R) 11.25 Chopping Block. (R) 12.30 ITV News; Weather. 12.45 Film: Carry On Jack. (1963) Comedy, with Bernard Cribbins. **2.25 All Star Family Fortunes. (R) 3.10 Ninja Warrior UK. (R) 4.15 The Voice UK. (R) 5.30 Tipping Point. (R) 6.30 Regional Programme; Weather. 6.40 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Take Me Out Celebrity Special.** Paddy McGuinness presents a special edition of the dating show, with TOWIE's James Aarørg Argent, presenter Melvin Odum and Olympic gymnast Nile Wilson entering the "love lift" in the hope of impressing 30 single women returning from previous series and persuading them to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. **8.00 Lion Country: Night and Day.** With the rains dry, it seems lion cubs Prince and Ziggy may finally have a chance of surviving this perilous season. Against all odds they seem to have finally been accepted into the pride and won the approval of the dominant males – but a jealous lioness intends to get rid of them. Rogue males invade the territory of the Hollywood pride, and the lionesses face a struggle to keep their newborn cubs safe. Narrated by David Morrissey. Last in the series. **9.00 The Good Karma Hospital.** An abandoned baby is brought to the hospital, and Lydia is reunited with an ex-pat artist, whose unusual lifestyle may be about to catch up with him. **10.00 ITV News; Weather. 10.20 Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston. (R) **11.15 Premiership Rugby Union.** Action from the 15th round of fixtures. **12.15 Jackpot247. 3.00 Chopping Block. (R) 3.50 ITV NightScreen. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)******

CHANNEL 4

**6.15 The King of Queens. (R) 6.40 The King of Queens. (R) 7.10 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. **12.30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) 1.35 The Simpsons. (R) 2.05 The Simpsons. (R) 2.35 Film: Addams Family Values. (1993)** Comedy sequel, starring Anjelica Huston and Raul Julia. **4.30 Channel 4 News. 5.00 Film: The Karate Kid. (2010)** An American boy living in China falls foul of bullies, until a kindly kung fu master teaches him the skills to defend himself. Martial arts drama, with Jason Smith and Jackie Chan. **7.30 The Jump.** The remaining celebrity contestants compete in the skeleton event, which requires them to ride down a twisted track on a heavy metal sled with their faces millimetres from the ice. The losers in each race will then have to face the jump to decide who will be the next to leave the series. Presented by Davina McCall. **9.00 Film: X-Men: Days of Future Past. (2014)** Premiere. In a future ravaged by war, the superhero team makes a desperate last stand against a force of deadly robots. Their only hope is to send Wolverine back in time to the 1970s, to join forces with an earlier version of the X-Men and change the events that started the conflict. Superhero adventure sequel, starring Hugh Jackman, Jennifer Lawrence, James McAvoy and Michael Fassbender. **11.40 Film: Lawless. (2012)** Three brothers running a Depression-era bootlegging operation come under threat from a corrupt sheriff. Crime drama, starring Shia LaBeouf, Tom Hardy and Jason Clarke. **1.40 The Last Leg.** Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker are joined by celebrity guests for a comic review of the significant moments of the past seven days. (R) **2.35 Phil: Secret Agent Down Under. (R) 4.25 Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free.** Kirstie Allsopp helps transform a Worcester home that seems to be stuck in a 1980s time warp. (R) **4.40 Four in a Bed.** The contestants meet one last time to discover how much they have been paid by their fellow hoteliers, before discovering who has won the competition. (R) **5.10 Fifteen to One.** Sandi Toksvil hosts the general knowledge quiz. (R)**

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Peppa Pig. (R) 6.10 Milkshake! Monkey. (R) 6.15 Milkshake! Bob Box. (R) 6.20 Paw Patrol. (R) 6.30 Bob the Builder. (R) 6.40 Fireman Sam. (R) 6.55 Rupert Bear. (R) 7.05 Oily the Little White Van. (R) 7.10 Wanda and the Alien. (R) 7.20 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 7.35 Little Princess. (R) 7.50 Paw Patrol. (R) 8.10 Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) 8.30 Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) 8.50 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.05 Shimmer and Shine. 9.35 Peppa Pig. (R) 9.45 Peppa Pig. (R) 9.50 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.35 Football on 5: The Championship. (R) 11.30 Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) 12.00 Inside Windsor Castle. (R) 12.55 Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh. (R) 1.55 Film: Seabiscuit. (2003) **4.30 5 News. 4.35 Film: National Lampoon's Vacation. (1983) 6.25 Film: National Lampoon's European Vacation. (1985)** The disaster-prone Griswolds win a holiday touring Europe on a game show – and proceed to cause mayhem wherever they go. Comedy sequel, with Chevy Chase and Beverly D'Angelis. Edited for language and sexual content. Includes 5 News Update. **8.10 That's So 1980s.** A look at events in 1985 using news, pop and TV archive clips to provide a reminder of the time, including the Live Aid concerts prompted by the famine in Ethiopia. (R) **9.00 The Freddie Mercury Story: Who Wants to Live Forever?** Documentary made to mark the 25th anniversary of the Queen frontman's death, which explores two of the most important years in his life, from the band's iconic performance at the Live Aid concert in 1985 to his diagnosis with AIDS in 1987. The programme examines his struggle to keep his private life out of the tabloids and to continue recording music in the face of his failing health. Featuring contributions from family and friends, including chauffeur and bodyguard Terry Giddings, who shares his account of the final years for the first time. (R) **11.05 20 Moments that Rocked the 80s.** Cherie Lunghi presents. (R) **12.35 Lip Sync Battle. (R) 1.00 SuperCasino. 3.10 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) 4.00 World's Most Pampered Pets. (R)****

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00 Sound of Song 8.00** Life of a Mountain: A Year on Blencathra **9.00** Tom Waits: Tales from a Cracked Jukebox **10.00** The Cult Next Door **11.00** Film: Phoenix (2014) **12.35** Nelson's Caribbean Hell-Joke: An Eighteenth Century Navy Graveyard Uncovered **1.35** Order and Disorder with Jim Al-Khalili **2.35** Life of a Mountain: A Year on Blencathra **3.35** Close **ITV2**  
**1.40** 2Awesome: Fame High **1.55** 2Awesome: Third Wheel **2.25** 2Awesome: LA Story **2.45** You've Been Framed! Gold **3.10** Film: The Haunted Mansion (2003) **4.10** FYI Daily **4.15** Film: The Smurfs 2 (2013) **4.55** Film: The Smurfs 2 (2013) **7.00** Film: Jack and Jill (2011) **8.00** FYI Daily **8.05** Film: Jack and Jill (2011) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.25** The Cleveland Show **1.25** Ibiza Weekender **1.55** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 NightScreen **ITV3**  
**12.40** Film: Hidden Treasure (2001) **2.45** Wyldlife **3.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** The Royal Variety Performance 2016 **10.35** Birds of a Feather **11.10** Film: Steptoe and Son Ride Again (1973) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15** Film: Steptoe and Son Ride Again (1973) **1.15** Inspector Morse **3.05** May the Best House Win **4.50** On the Buses **ITV4**  
**2.20** Film: The Cimarron Kid (1952) **3.25** FYI Daily **3.30** Film: The Cimarron Kid (1952) **4.10** Film: Rio Bravo (1959) **5.10** FYI Daily **5.15** Film: Rio Bravo (1959) **7.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union Highlights **9.05** Film: Memphis Belle (1990) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.15** Film: Memphis Belle (1990) **11.15** Film: The Road (2009) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20** Film: The Road (2009) **1.25** Lawrence Daltaglio: Sports Life Stories **2.25** Hogan's Heroes **2.50** ITV4 NightScreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**  
**1.50** The Big Bang Theory: Catch Up **7.15** Film: Men in Black II (2002) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Film: The Adjustment Bureau (2011) **12.05** Celebs Go Dating **3.05** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.50** Holyoaks **Film4**  
**11.00** Destry (1954) **1.00** Endless Love (2014) **3.05** Carry On Teacher (1959) **4.50** Never Been Kissed (1999) **6.55** Tooth Fairy (2010) **9.00** Fast Forward (2010) **10.55** The Fourth King (2009)

Ex-midwife Vicki's smile is reborn

MEETING Vicki Ball is all about her smiles – lots of them. She's generous with her compliments, can't wait for her next holiday adventure and has the most infectious of laughs

Her company is light and she's gushing with the praise about her new look.

A retired community midwife who was based at the former Wordsley Hospital, the bubbly 60-something-year-old is quick to affirm: "I love my new teeth and they look natural, don't they?"

Adding: "You can't tell they're not my own," Vicki admits her smile has not always been her favourite attribute. I've always had trouble with



Vicki Ball

my teeth; even as a young girl they crumbled and my gums used to bleed. Even though I was diligent about looking after them, they still let me down," she adds.

Two years ago, Vicki finally lost her remaining teeth. "For 18 months I put up with ill-fitting and badly made dentures. My gums were always sore and I'd

grown tired of living my life around my teeth. Vicki saw an article in her local newspaper about Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) and his work at the Denture Clinic and booked in.

Vicki's treatment included two implants to stabilise a lower over-denture and the prescribing of high quality traditional upper dentures. "From start to finish it took 14 weeks, but it was worth the wait. When I first saw my teeth in the mirror, I thought they looked just like real teeth and... they feel like my own teeth."



Our dental implants

● The best option for multiple failing teeth

IT'S hard to imagine after losing natural teeth, things could ever be quite the same again. Even the loss of a single tooth is now recognised as a serious life event.

And for most, with the loss of native teeth comes an emotional hurdle – now recognised as a mourning process. In a recent edition of the British Dental Nurses' Journal it highlights the stages of bereavement.

We all know that tooth loss can impact on our choices of food, but there are less visible issues that can arise surrounding compromised social interaction. Simply, losing teeth and having teeth that are failing can stop us living life spontaneously.

Although recent figures suggest oral health is improving, millions of UK adults suffer with tooth loss. It can be embarrassing, painful and erode self-

● Perfect solution for dentures that move

FOR some it's the final chance of a solution, desperate for help as too many failing teeth have eroded confidence and any quality of life. Others have come to their wits' end with unstable dentures and still more as referrals from other practitioners. However they arrive at North Street Dental and Implant Clinic, central to many of their solutions is dental implant surgeon Dr Owain Rees BDS DGD(Eng) Dip Imp Dent (UCL).

esteem. Practice Principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) says: "We see almost on a weekly basis in our clinics that failing teeth – both natural and dentures – can have a hugely corrosive effect on lifestyles."

Excellent results

Solutions without using dental implants have been around for a long time. Dentures and bridges still offer excellent options.

Adds Steven: "If the patient is suitable, and few are

● Best replacement for lost native teeth

not, dental implants whether for single or multiple teeth replacement, or to replace a complete arch of teeth, can offer long-term solutions with generally very predictable clinical outcomes."

For those with prosthetic stabilisation issues, implant-retained prescriptions offer excellent results.

"Our implant retained dentures have a bite comparable to natural teeth, look stunning, appear as natural teeth and deliver the patient a dental therapy where we can categorically guarantee an end to denture stabilisation issues," adds Steven.

The suction solution

JENNY (not her real name) was afraid to laugh in public and tried to mask the problems with her false teeth by using copious amounts of fixative.

"In the end it was ridiculous. I was fighting a losing battle," she says.

After seeing Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng), she was prescribed the non-invasive Ultra Suction dentures more than five years ago.

Extolling their virtues, Jenny adds: "I am perfectly happy with the result and I now never have to think about my teeth."

How do they work? A small diaphragm seals off a one-way valve under bite pressure, creating a 'sucking' vacuum between the denture and gums.

The result is a better fit to the soft tissues and improved resistance to any dislodging forces.

● Few unsuitable for this kind of treatment

All denture prescriptions at the clinic are hand-crafted on site in the laboratory using only premium quality materials and state-of-the-art production methods.

With more than 25 years' experience placing implants, Owain was in the vanguard of UK implant therapy while working as a house officer in oral surgery at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Adds Steven: "We're incredibly fortunate to have someone of Owain's professional stature working with us."

"He's innovative, accessible, everything you'd expect of a dentist with such advanced surgical skills... and a genuinely nice guy to meet."

Complex surgical cases, general dentistry and not least, the patients who require full mouth restorations, fall under his clinical remit.



## FILM CHOICES

### MONDAY

#### Lifetime of Lies, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Returning home for her brother's funeral, Sayre Hoyle attempts to unravel the truth about his death. While she is in the neighbourhood, she must also deal with her strained relationship with her corrupt businessman father and the romantic attentions of his lawyer. Mystery, starring Shenae Grimes-Beech, Sean Faris and John Schneider. (2016)

### TUESDAY

#### Carry On Henry, ITV, 11.40pm

King Henry VIII plots to rid himself of his new French wife when her craving for garlic becomes too much to cope with. However, he cannot afford to anger the king of France, and tries to make it look as if his queen has had an affair. Comedy, starring Sid James, Joan Sims, Kenneth Williams, Terry Scott, Charles Hawtrey and Barbara Windsor. (1971)



Seven Pounds, Wednesday, Channel 5, 11.05pm

### WEDNESDAY

#### Seven Pounds, Channel 5, 11.05pm

A man haunted by a tragedy he caused seeks redemption. Assuming his tax inspector brother's identity to gain access to people's private records, he sets out to atone by helping seven seemingly unconnected strangers with their problems – only to fall in love with one of the people he assists. Drama, starring Will Smith, Rosario Dawson, Woody Harrelson and Barry Pepper. (2008)

### THURSDAY

#### Deadly Paradise, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Premiere. A millionaire treats her friends to an all-expenses-paid holiday in Hawaii. But when her money is stolen, she sets out for revenge. Thriller, starring Boti Bliss. (2016)

### FRIDAY

#### Man on a Ledge, Channel 4, 12.55am

An escaped convict climbs onto the outside of a skyscraper and threatens to jump. The police psychologist sent to talk him down begins to suspect there is an agenda behind this suspicious-seeming suicide bid, while the prisoner's brother takes advantage of the ensuing chaos to carry out a plan of his own. Thriller, with Sam Worthington. (2012)

# The stars will be out to shine at the O2

It's that time of year again when musicians have too much to drink; a record industry bigwig or politician makes either a dull speech or attempts to appear 'down with the kids', and the hosts try to keep the (heavily branded) gong show from over-running.

Sadly Michael Buble had to drop out of MCGing The Brit Awards 2017 due to family issues, so the ever amiable Dermot O'Leary and Emma Willis will be sharing hosting duties.

"The Brits is an iconic show that I've watched and attended many times," explains Dermot. "It's a holy grail for a broadcaster, and I'm really looking forward to working with Emma, who I'm a big fan of, and celebrating a brilliant year of British music."

Mrs Willis is equally thrilled to be taking part.

"I had an awesome time presenting the nominations show this year and I am delighted to be asked back for the main event," she enthuses.

One woman who will be thrilled to pick up another gong is Ellie Goulding.

In 2010, after winning the BBC's

'Sound Of...' contest, she might have looked like just another startlet enjoying their 15 minutes of fame, but she proved to be one of the most formidable singer-songwriters of her generation.

A string of hit albums, including Lights and Delirium, and singles like Love Me Like You Do, from the 50 Shades of Grey movie, helped make her a global superstar, with 1.3 (US) billion hits for that video alone. It helps that You On My Mind, another track from that album, proved equally infectious.

Little wonder a shampoo company jumped at the chance to sign her up, while girls around the world have been inspired to write their own songs based on Goulding's success.

There's also little surprise she's been nominated as British Female Solo Artist at this year's back-slapping ceremony. She's up against Anohni; Emeli Sandé; Lianne La Havas, and Nao.

After staging a Lazarus-style comeback, Craig David is up for British Male Solo Artist, along with the

much missed David Bowie; Kano; Michael Kiwanuka, and Skepta.

And in the Best British Group category, the 1975 takes on Bastille; Biffy Clyro; Little Mix, and Radiohead.

One of the biggest singles of the past year was Rockabye, the Clean Bandit smash featuring Sean Paul and Anne-Marie. It spent nine consecutive weeks at number one, and landed the all-important Christmas top slot. That knocked Little Mix's Shout Out to My Ex off the top slot, and both are in the running for British Single.

With the passing of Leonard Cohen, there's no shock to see him up for International Solo Artist, or Bowie's final LP Blackstar up for British Album of the Year.

Among those performing at London's O2 are Robbie Williams, Ed Sheeran, Little Mix, the 1975 and Ms Sandé.

So, if your tickets got lost in the post, settle back and enjoy, content in the knowledge you won't have a long queue for the loos during the ad breaks.



Dermot O'Leary hosts, The Brit Awards 2017, Wednesday, ITV, 7.30pm

## BEST OF THE REST

### MONDAY

#### Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup BBC1, 7.30pm

Sutton United v Arsenal (Kick-off 7.55pm). Coverage of the fifth-round fixture, which takes place at the Borough Sports Ground, as the non-league side look to cause a huge upset against the 12-time winners of the competition. Sutton have already defeated three Football League teams to reach this stage, with their scalp of Championship high-flyers Leeds United in round four causing the biggest stir. Arsene Wenger will be wary of taking tonight's opponents lightly, and may go against his usual cup policy of bleeding the young players, with the artificial turf at the Borough Sports Ground adding an extra layer of unpredictability to the contest.

### TUESDAY

#### Inside No 9 BBC2, 10pm

The opening episode of season three aired at Christmas, but here's the real gift – another five nail-biting, scary and darkly amusing tales from Steve Pemberton and Reece Shearsmith. What's more, a fourth series has already been commissioned, so there's even more fun and games on their way. Here, Jason Watkins and Philip Glenister make guest appearances as two of a

group of friends who, after a game of badminton, head to a restaurant for some tapas and a few drinks. It's a lot of fun – until the question of paying the bill comes up, turning what had been a pleasant evening into a shocking event that will change the lives of those involved. As you might expect it's a taut, perfectly timed 30 minutes – just keep in mind what happens the next time you head out for a meal with pals.

### WEDNESDAY

#### The Royal House of Windsor Channel 4, 9pm

New series. Documentary telling the story of the great dynasty, which began in 1917 when King George V changed the royal family's name from the unpopular German Saxe-Coburg and Gotha due to the anti-German sentiment in the British Empire that raged during the First World War. To mark the 100th anniversary of the moniker, this series uses the help of family insiders, fresh research and unique access to the royal archives at Windsor Castle to reveal the human frailties and secrets behind Britain's most powerful clan.

### THURSDAY

#### Mafia Women with Trevor McDonald ITV, 9pm

The veteran broadcaster presents the second of two programmes lifting the lid on the riches, the pain and the sense of betrayal that life with a mobster can bring – and this time his journey brings him to a series of secret locations meeting mob wives who are all hiding from the Mafia with their partners. They include Donna Mangiavillano, her daughters Stefanie and Victoria and husband Salvatore, who once masterminded bank heists for the mob – only to betray his bosses to the FBI. Now the family live in fear that one day the Mafia will exact its revenge.

#### Born Too White BBC2, 9pm

An examination of the persecution and discrimination of people with albinism in

Tanzania and Malawi, East Africa. Doctor Oscar Duke, who himself has albinism, embarks on a journey to discover what life is like for people who share his condition in these countries. He meets young people facing the brunt of discrimination, from a 15-year-old who was mutilated in an attack, to the 280- children placed in a secure camp for people with albinism in Tanzania. Oscar also confronts some of those responsible for making these people's lives a living hell – and comes face to face with an 'albino hunter' imprisoned for murder.

### FRIDAY

#### Schofield's South African Adventure ITV, 8pm

In this new three-part series, the This Morning host leaves his comfy sofa with Holly Willoughby behind for a personal trip of a lifetime to South Africa with his wife Stephanie. While swimming with dolphins in on many people's bucket lists, Phillip opts for a more nerve-wracking experience by choosing to dive alongside great white sharks. To make sure he's as safe as anyone can be when having such an experience, he travels to Gansbaai, where he is kitted out in undersea equipment, before entering a cage to catch a glimpse of one of the world's most dangerous predators. It's not all scary adventures though - the couple also visit the city of Cape Town.

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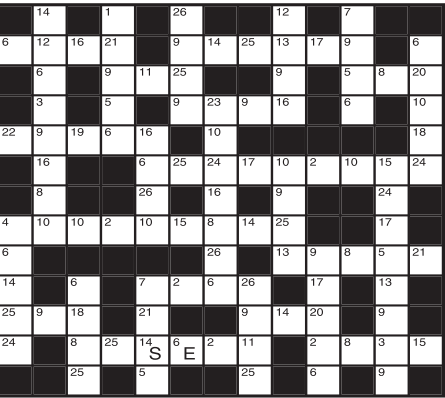
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

W	C	D	T	B	Z	X	K	F	S	Y	N	H
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
O	E	A	M	J	Q	L	V	I	U	P	R	G

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

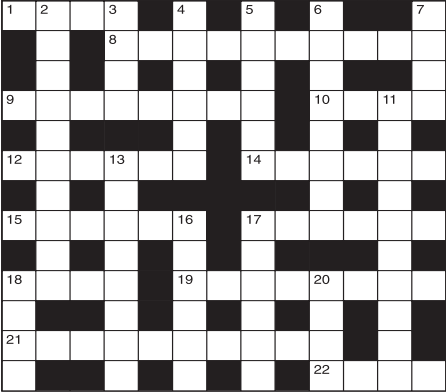
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. Thought I'd half of each (4)
- 8. Expelled from the army band? (7,3)
- 9. Remove a summary (8)
- 10. Get near about (4)
- 12. Nobleman getting into New York, almost (6)
- 14. Gives up the struggle with crops (6)
- 15. Coats for nosy people, we hear (6)
- 17. Animals produce it, humans leave it (6)
- 18. Be inclined to rely on others for support? (4)
- 19. Two girls useful in the kitchen (8)
- 21. Be too tired to keep up? (4,6)
- 22. One of the wise men tucked into the turkey (4)

Down

- 2. Large drink taken with fruit on a social engagement (6,4)
- 3. An entrance I'd turn in at (4)
- 4. After a quick start it's simple to be unsettled (6)
- 5. In which to find a forger's (6)
- 6. He aren't upset one who follows (8)
- 7. Public school of rising reputation (4)
- 11. It's diverting, though irrelevant (3,7)
- 13. Don't leave out! (8)
- 16. The force of emphasis (6)
- 17. 50 is 10? Pay attention! (6)
- 18. Felt confused and didn't stay (4)
- 20. For centuries they ignored America (4)



Quick Clues:

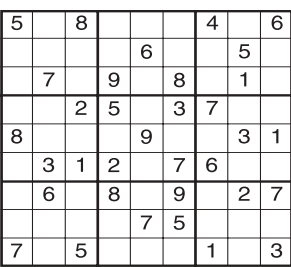
Across

- 1. Lofty (4)
- 8. Improve (10)
- 9. Substance (8)
- 10. Mimic (4)
- 12. Inconstant (6)
- 14. Tidings (6)
- 15. Grovelling (6)
- 17. Preferably (6)
- 18. Signify (4)
- 19. Close (8)
- 21. Convincing (10)
- 22. Wait upon (4)

Down

- 2. Changeless (10)
- 3. Healthy (4)
- 4. Gadget (6)
- 5. Assassin (6)
- 6. Eccentric (8)
- 7. Refuse (4)
- 11. Faultlessness (10)
- 13. Enthusiasm (8)
- 16. Clannish (6)
- 17. Keep (6)
- 18. Be depressed (4)
- 20. Confront (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	8	2	6	3	9	1	7	4
3	4	1	7	2	5	6	8	9
6	9	7	6	1	4	3	2	5
6	8	4	1	9	7	5	3	2
2	1	3	4	5	8	7	9	6
7	5	9	3	6	2	4	1	8
4	2	5	9	7	3	8	6	1
1	3	8	2	4	6	9	5	7
9	7	6	5	8	1	2	4	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Latch; 8 Amorous; 9 Illicit; 10 Event; 12 Face to face; 15 Fratricide; 18 Satan; 19 Archaic; 21 Barbers; 22 Theme. Down: 1 Plaintiffs; 2 Still; 3 Chic; 4 Rattle; 5 Foreword; 6 Polecat; 11 Treble clef; 13 Arranged; 14 Battery; 16 Chaise; 17 Caper; 20 Cut a. QUICK - Across: 7 Notch; 8 Overrun; 9 Incense; 10 Dread; 12 Abstemious; 15 Tantamount; 18 Cling; 19 Traduce; 21 Enlarge; 22 Local. Down: 1 Antiseptic; 2 Stock; 3 Shun; 4 Potent; 5 Herdsman; 6 Freedom; 11 Deservedly; 13 Braggart; 14 Entitle; 16 Outset; 17 Hutch; 20 Able.

Quiz

- 1. What is a serval?
- 2. What is the name of the traditional Muslim women's headscarf?
- 3. For which film did choirmistress Iris Stevenson provide the inspiration?
- 4. In which city is Maracana football stadium?
- 5. Which former deputy prime minister was nicknamed Tarzan?
- 6. Which substance takes its name from the Italian for 'baked earth'?
- 7. Of what type of animal in the yapok the only aquatic variety?
- 8. The USSR's invasion of which country in 1940 was known as the Winter War?
- 9. Which actor starred in The 39 Steps and Jesus of Nazareth?
- 10. By what name do we know the tree Pyrus communis?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Erich Maria Remarque; 2 US, French and Australian Opens; 3 Martin Luther; 4 Testosterone; 5 Five; 6 Artificial intelligence; 7 Teeth; 8 Panorama; 9 French; 10 Middlemarch. Niner: SPEARMINT

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

48963 gives a tree,  
675 gives a second tree,  
713248 gives a third tree.



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The lamb chops were delicious but the mash was tops



Chicken goujons were served as the starter



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# Monster mash gives rest of meal the chop as food fails to hit spot

**THERE'S nothing wrong with pushing the boat out and paying more than you'd normally deem acceptable for good food every once in a while.**

But it is annoying is when you splash the cash on food that doesn't quite hit the spot. Unfortunately, this is what happened on a midweek trip to The Parkbrook.

In truth, this was by no means a terrible meal. There was nothing particularly wrong with what we ate, but it just seemed lacking somewhat, and didn't leave us satisfied.

In their defence, the owners told us that a year ago, they'd taken over what was an ailing venue and were trying to turn things around. So the potential is there; let's hope things do improve. The pub, just off the M6 Junction 10 on the main stretch into

## Parkbrook, Walsall

Walsall, is welcoming enough. The service is friendly too, with staff being welcoming upon arrival and finding you a spot to sit.

As there were only two or three other couples there, we were a little surprised when we were told there was a delay in the food. When our starters arrived, they seemed strangely at odds with the rest of the meal. Our main courses felt freshly made and unlike what you'd find elsewhere, but to pay almost £4 for three chicken goujons, served in barbecue dip and with a salad garnish, was slightly disappointing.

My friend didn't fare much better, opting for the deep fried garlic mushrooms, with a garlic dip and salad garnish. We both agreed we could have done both our starters ourselves at home. Things got better though. The main courses felt more of a

treat, mine in particular, the Barnsley lamb chop – a 10oz brace of two succulent lamb chops, served on a bed of mashed potato combined with spinach, a mint gravy and seasonal cabbage. Firstly, how grand was the mash? Soft and moreish, the stand-out item on the plate.

## Flavour

It definitely made the meal for me, although the lamb was deliciously smothered in a mint gravy oozing flavour.

My pal picked the vegetable biryani – a traditional Mughlai main course of rice loaded with chopped vegetables, spices and saffron and served with chips.

He mostly enjoyed it. However, he found it a little dry and would have liked something extra to make it a little less stodgy. The wait between courses meant there was plenty of time for us to digest our mains,

making desserts a more attractive option. However, like the starters, they were disappointing.

I plumped for the lemon meringue – a slice of cake, layered with cream and meringue bits on a soft base. It was delicious and suitably sweet, packing enough of a tart lemony punch to round off the three courses nicely. But the accompanying ice cream lacked flavour.

My friend found his sticky toffee pudding too thick and rich and couldn't quite finish it. It was too dry and the accompanying ice cream was flavourless.

It was a strange end to an overall odd experience for us at The Parkbrook. For somewhere rated so highly on TripAdvisor, I expected a little better than the slow service and underwhelming food. It was not terrible, it just failed to hit the spot.

Leigh Sanders

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D7301 Turquoise	D2979 Royal blue

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KELLY young attractive vivacious 48yr old lady, loves good food, cosy nights in/out, holidays etc. WLTm male for mutual companionship without ties. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425913

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box 419673

DONNA naughty 40's, pretty, loves nights in, gym, theatre, seeks someone to make me laugh, give lots of cuddles and go on fun dates. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425867

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715

DAWN 33yr old female looking for companionship with understanding, non-jealous male 35-55yrs. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425849

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399

KAREN, 52, 51T5, short brownie/blond hair, green eyes, medium build, GSOH, loving, caring and kind, likes to do lots of things, like a laugh, WLTm similar gent, hope to hear from you soon! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425917

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375

ANETTA, black cuddly lady seeks man who knows what a woman needs. I'm very friendly and have time for you. Please call or text me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425933

SARAH, 39yrs, married, seeking chap for no strings intimate times. Special friendship, mutual respect. Give me a call. Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 408291

JANE, attractive and young looking 60 something lady, active, outgoing with interesting personality, hoping to meet a kind gent for occasional meetings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425931

TAMIKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422365

GILLY, slim petite lady, affectionate and loving, solvent with own home, hoping to meet gent, must be kind, looks unimportant. ACA/text answered. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425929

CARLY, 34yrs, attractive and discreet military wife seeks no strings fun with respectable gent. Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box 424419

MERRY widow seeks lovely lonely gent for companionship. Please call, we can have a chat and see how we get on. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425927

ATTRACTIVE well educated lady, mid 30's, solvent, professional, seeks discreet broad minded gent. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 425891

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AMANDA, slim blonde, 50s seeks discreet gent for special times, mutually beneficial to us both. Call now. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425327

MELINDA, 52yrs, attractive and broad minded seeking chap any age for some fun. Couples alone. Text only Mailbox: 4131946

SLIM, smart, young at heart lady, early 70s, 5ft8, likes dining out, reading, gardening, seeks kind, caring gent with GSOH who likes dining out and holidays for companionship and shared interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425791

JOSIE, sexy black lady, 52yrs seeks adult times with concerning gent, any age, discreet clean, womanly figure. Text only Mailbox: 4028592

SARA, 43, educated, independent, attractive female, nervous about dating through advertising, so pls don't disappoint me by not replying. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425703

ANNABELLE, sophisticated 28yrs hoping to meet older gent for adult fun, discreet, sincere, genuine advertiser. Text only Mailbox: 4157105

MARIE, very attractive curvy widow, longing for romance, seeking country-loving male with old-fashioned values for lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425599

KATHY 37, gorgeous mixed race single female, 5ft 8ins, slim, sensual, just looking for kind, trustworthy guy any age, looks or race. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425589

JAN 41, fed up of sitting at home every weekend watching TV alone. Feel the same and looking for love? please contact me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425497

STACY 28yr old gorgeous brunette with buxom figure, intelligent and sensual, WLTm genuine male to get to know for fun dates and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425457

SHELLEY slim N/5 40's female who likes the simple things in life so no big gestures required, seeking lovely loving male for hopeful LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425255

KATHERINE, 28, tall, slim, dark, blue eyed female, looking for no strings attached evening meals. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425287

TRACY, 41, outgoing sun worshiper, OHAC, employed, looking for her Prince Charming to enjoy romantic holidays and good times together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425257

SHARON 36yr old single mum looking for loving guy who will appreciate me and help repair my broken heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425283

SANDRA, smart, sophisticated lady young looking 60s, genuine and kind seeks gent with GSOH, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424671

HELEN, mid 50's naughty lady seeks someone to enjoy life and TLC and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424493

MARY, professional mature lady, loves life, very sociable and fun, seeks gent for good conversation and happy times. All calls and texts answered. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424775

EILEEN mid 60s seeks gent 50s-60s for friendship, possibly much more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425341

LINDA, 48yrs attractive brunette seeks gent for laughter, winning dining. Age unimportant. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425337

LOVING lady, romantic and tactile seeks like-minded gent for special times, lets make each other feel special. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425325

ATTRACTIVE Caribbean lady 59yrs, very jolly and fun seeking gent any age who must love good times. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425323

ANDREA, 43, slim with long dark hair, blue eyes, loves to dance seeks romantic man to share intimate moments in or out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425221

CAROL, mid 50s lady, young at heart, attractive and sexy (so I'm told)! Give me a call if you are a gent with GSOH. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424783

THELMA, 59, slim, petite and Afro Caribbean, GSOH, trustworthy, honest and very caring, leave me your details if that sounds good to you! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425195

SUE, 60s lady, calling all gents who seek a mature solvent stylish lady, I can wine and dine you, you will have a nice time, call or text me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424781

CHRISTINE, 40, attractive slim sporty brunette seeks fit well built male. Call me let's see what the future brings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425061

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418117

NAUGHTY curvy 46yr old lady, outgoing and bubbly with a naughty side and lots of banter, reading, seeking likeminded male for nights in/out, hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425453

LOUISE, 29, curvy red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425041

LYN, 47, curvy quiet sensitive brunette but with a wild side. It could be exciting to know me! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425013

KAREN, 47, an attractive blue eyed redhead, curvy size 16, likes films, football, pubs, reading, seeking likeminded male for nights in/out, hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425057

HI I'm Ellie, 39, pretty, funny, great figure OHAC/child, have everything apart from a man, WLTm someone I wanna be with, not have to be. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424635

JULIE attractive 35yr old female with a great body, looking for no strings attached evening meals. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425037

MARY, passionate honest slim blue-eyed female, 39yrs, likes nights in/out, looking for affectionate male, any age to spend adult fun times. Interested? call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425009

DONNA, 42, bright bubbly blue eyed blonde looking for someone to enjoy life and love to the full with. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424873

RETIRED happy, caring, attractive female, likes gardening, travel, animals, comedy, seeks tall, funny, kind chap. Shropshire. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411459

SUZANNA, 45, lonely beautiful classy lady looking for happy decent reliable very sexy man for lots of TLC and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424847

SARAH, young looking curvy 41yr old female, bored with everyday routines, WLTm lady for some fun discreet and extremely broadminded younger male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424827

DEBBIE, 50, petite blonde looking for some fun and adventure with similar fun loving mature male. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424799

CALL or text me, I'm Claire, single, 41yrs loves life to the full, hoping you will contact me if you want a genuine fun time. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424779

CHRISTIAN, 57, 6ft, dark, likes walking, nice meals and socialising, looking for discreet times with a similar fun lady. If you are interested please contact me. I look forward to hearing from you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425947

STEVE, 59, sincere and genuine, likes pub meals, country walks and cinema, seeks Chinese, Tai, Black, Asian or Italian lady, looks unimportant but personality is, for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425831

I am looking for a lady friend to enjoy my retirement with. I enjoy going out for meals and would like some company. Text only. Mailbox: 5777872

CALLING all ladies 40+ who would like to be well, dined and romanced by attractive gent. 54 years please call or text me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425943

PROFESSIONAL gent, mid 60s loves holidays, winning dining, shows in London, seeking similar minded lady to romance. Own house car. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425941

JOHN, mid sixties widower, cultured and interesting, solvent with own home. WLTm lady 55+ for genuine companionship. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425939

GENUINE single gent, 55yrs, seeks friendship hopefully leading to true love with lady 35-55, looks unimportant. Please call or text me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425937

SOLVENT gentleman, young 70s, loves life seeking a lady of any age to spoil and pamper, take on holidays, wine and dine. Genuine advertiser. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425935

ADVENTUROUS 36-year-old male, slim, dark hair, has many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235

MARRIED businessman, mid fifties, seeks lady for discreet adult fun. Any age/looks unimportant. Text only. Mailbox: 5534019

MALE, 60, tall and slim, WLTm old female of larger build, any age, any status, for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425807

TALL male, 58, seeks larger woman, any age, for discreet fun, married or single. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425643

GENUINE male, 37, friendly and easygoing, enjoys sport and keep fit, WLTm genuine female 25-45, for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420253

TALL, dark, attractive male, 57, WLTm an attractive female for discreet daytime fun, 25-50. Can travel. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425759

MALE, late 60s, medium build, 5ft10, n/s, car owner, likes meals out, holidays, walks, WLTm slim, attractive female who enjoys similar activities for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425757

ATTRACTIVE Shrewsbury male, 50s, WLTm an attractive female, any age/status, for discreet daytime fun and excitement. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422801

GARY, 46, 5ft10, blue eyes, GSOH, likes football, quiet nights in, nights out, cinema, walking, travelling, looking for a likewise woman, 35-50, bubbly and fun loving with a GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425441

I'm Andy, 52, looking for a lady, 50-65, for long term relationship, so text me and lets see what happens. Text only. Mailbox: 5366992

MATURE male, 50, medium-build, varied interests, seeks true Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and dining out, for friendship or possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419283

ATTRACTIVE male, 58, seeks adventurous female, 50-70, for close fun. Any status size. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425535

DAN 46, easy going chap WLTm a lady 40+ for an uncomplicated discreet friendship with no strings fun. Discretion guaranteed. Text only. Mailbox: 5595608

WELL made broad male, 5ft 10ins, medium build, looking for some adult fun with lovely sexy lady, possible LTR or friends with benefits. Text only. Mailbox: 5321154

MATURE male, 50, medium-build, varied interests, seeks true Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and dining out, for friendship or possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419283

CHRISTIAN male 51, seeking Christian female, 35-45 for friendship, possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423747

MATURE male, 70s, tall, retired, recovering alcoholic, WLTm someone understanding, maybe in the same situation for friendship and mutual support. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425263

YOUNG looking 63 year old male, GSOH, friendly, considerate, attractive, looking for a naughty female, any age/status, for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425243

IRISH gent, 66, GSOH, n/s, wishes to meet lady, North Birmingham area, for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425269

WIDOWER, 60s, honest, trustworthy, GSOH, likes country walks, shows, nights in, restaurants etc. WLTm a partner to share interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425157

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JAMES, 59, 5ft11, average build, WLTm a Christian lady, 60-70, for companionship. Hope to hear from you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425227

IRISH male, 62, 5ft 9ins, GSOH, independent, seeks genuine female for friendship in/out, Birmingham area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403623

MALE 63, widower, Irish, GSOH, tall, independent, seeks special lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409243

MALE 65, GSOH, seeks female for friendship and companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418389

TOM, 32, slim, attractive, own home, likes to eat out and, in WLTm honest, kind girl for tender, loving care and fun times. No time wasters please. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424929

JAY, attractive, 6ft2, single father, loves a laugh and a giggle, looking for a lady for evenings out, company and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424305

CHRIS, 49yrs honest gent seeks lady 45-55 for socialising, friendship, maybe leading to romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425345

PETER, sincere solvent gent 70s seeks lady to wine dine, foreign travel, all expenses paid. I would love a traveling companion. Genuine advertiser. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425343

MALCOLM, 60 something gent, own hair and teeth, GSOH, genuine and Kind WLTm sincere lady to wine and dine. Please call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425335

PROFESSIONAL gent, 44yrs, tall, attractive and genuine. Seeks genuine feminine lady for genuine romance. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425333

PIERS, 56yrs, romantic gent WLTm lady to wine, dine, spoil. I'm kind, caring generous pls call me. Single mums welcome. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425331

GENUINE gentleman, family minded, kind, generous seeks lady 55-75 for winning, dining and wine and laughter. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425329

LONELY male seeks partner for company and maybe LTR. GSOH and very caring. Copd sufferer but still likes to enjoy life. Text only. Mailbox: 4310699

MIKE 49, slim, young looks, seeks female, 35-50 for friendship and going out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 356651

DAVE, 54, 5ft10, medium build, easy going, happy, looking for an attractive, loving and caring female, 45-55, for friendship and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423073

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\*Hedges Pruned/Shaped \*Jungles Cleared/Full Landscapes  
\*Fencing \*Turfing \*Concreting \*Driveways & Patios  
\*Plus Much More Call Now For a No Obligation Quotation  
**WWW.ROWANGROUP.CO.UK**  
**01384 213644 or 07733 226568**

AGE CONCERN & Local Authority Contractor, N.P.T.C. qualified,  
Public Liability Insurance (£5 million) All staff C.R.B. Certified  
**PART OF THE ROWAN GROUP OF COMPANIES**

### Roy's Mowing & Garden Maintenance

- Garden tidy up's
- Bush/tree's/condifers/hedges cut or removed
- No job too big or small
- Special rates for OAP's
- Gutters Cleaned
- Fencing and Sheds Painted/Creosoted
- Chipper Hire
- Complete Garden Ripout
- Rubbish Removal
- Bush/Hedge and Tree Removal
- Patios and Drives Jetwashed

Please call: **0121 422 5818 / 07979 980951**

### R.A. GARDEN SERVICES

Established 24 years  
Gardening & Landscaping Services  
Including: • Tree Lopping • Hedge Cutting  
• Lawn Mowing • Fencing & Slabbing  
• Low Maintenance Landscaping • Gardens Cleared  
**FULLY INSURED • OAP DISCOUNTS**  
**FOR FREE QUOTE CALL:**  
**07970 876 638 • 01384 569 148**  
[www.ragardenservices.net](http://www.ragardenservices.net)

### R & S Gardens

- All garden work undertaken
- Hedges and lawns cut
- General tidy and rubbish removed
- Garden landscaping and fencing work

Telephone: **07851 323303**

To advertise your business and reach more than 46,000 potential customers...

**1**

Call us on...  
**01902 319590**

**2**

E-mail us at...  
[mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk)

**3**

Post to...  
Mark Moore, Halesowen Chronicle, Black Country House, Rounds Green Road, Oldbury B69 2DG



# Local Specialists



## Buy and sell with ClassifiedsAds



1. Visit our ClassifiedsAds website  
www.classifiedads.expressandstar.co.uk



2. Call our Classified sales team on 01902 317 878



3. Self Serve - Create your own advert in print and online - visit: [bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

## ClassifiedAds

BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

### Mot's

**MOT**  
**£27.99**  
with this advert  
**FREE RE-TEST**  
Green Garage, Unit 2a Station Road,  
(rear of Gold Cue Snooker Club), Blackheath, B65 0LJ  
**0121 559 6001**



### Plumbing & Heating

**Combi Doc**  
Gas Safe registered 120506  
Get your boiler serviced and ready for winter  
**Special Offers Now On!**  
Have you had your boiler/fire checked for Carbon Monoxide??  
Insulation, repairs and services on boilers, fires and cookers  
Install A band condensing boiler with free wireless room stat from £1250  
Ex British Gas with 30 years experience  
**07956 830204**



### Roofing

**ALL WEATHER ROOFING**

Slating, Tiling, New Roofs, Flat Roofs, Chimneys, Guttering, Ridges, Flashings, uPVC Fascia Cladding  
FREE ESTIMATES • FAST RELIABLE SERVICE  
Over 30 years experience  
**0121 420 1582**  
**NO CALL OUT CHARGE**  
Mobile Number: 07947 839451  
allweatherroofingwestmids.co.uk  
allweatherroofinguk@outlook.com

### Plastering

**C.A. Plastering**  
For competitive quotes on all your refurbishment needs on plastering, boarding, overboarding, partitions, re-skimming and artex covering.  
**No job too small**  
**07538 718264**

**DH PLASTERERS**  
FROM boarding, skimming, patching and repairs TO complete rooms  
GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES  
**0121 422 8594 or 07985 548466**

**Local Specialists**

**IJL GAS & PLUMBING SERVICES**  
INSTALL SERVICE & REPAIR on all Boilers and Heating Systems  
Bathrooms, Showers and all plumbing work  
Over 25 years experience  
Service and repair on Cookers and Fires  
**24 HOUR EMERGENCY CALL OUT**  
Landlord Certs and FREE Quotes  
CALL IAN 07907 186028 / 0121 588 8414

**P.S. Heating & Plumbing**  
Combi Boiler change from £950  
Specialists in Baxi / Baxi / Worcester Bosch / Vaillant Boilers plus many more  
SPECIAL OFFERS ON FULL HEATING SYSTEMS  
**NATURAL & LPG GAS**  
Free Quotation  
**07961 140885**



**PRESTIGE ROOFING PROFESSIONALS**  
Est 1998  
All aspects of roofing work undertaken  
New Roofs • Roof Repairs • Flat roof specialists  
Flat roofs new or repaired • Slating and tiling  
Chimney work and repointing work  
Fascias & Guttering  
**WON'T BE BEATEN ON PRICE OR QUALITY**  
**01527 907887**  
**07787 771108**

### Plumbing

**HOUSEHOLD PLUMBING**  
(General Plumbing and Bathrooms)  
**iphe** All installations and repairs  
Supply and fit or fit only  
TIDY, MODERN APPROACH. REGISTERED PLUMBER  
No job too small. Friendly service. Free advice and quotes  
Tel: Neil 07968 786449 - 0121-602 6776  
www.household-plumbing.co.uk

**Knight Gas**  
Heating & Plumbing  
Central Heating/Boilers  
Fires and Cookers  
Installation and Repair  
All Plumbing Work  
Landlords certificate  
FREE QUOTES  
Call Gary on  
0121 550 3424 or  
07715 082113

**KEN PERRY**  
PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEER  
Gas Fitting, Boiler Servicing and Immersion Heaters,  
Multi Point Water Heaters,  
Landlord's Gas Certificates,  
Boilers changed  
Guild of Master Craftsmen  
Gas Safe Registered  
STOURBRIDGE 392284

**ROOFING SERVICES**  
One of the Leading Roofing Companies  
No Job too Small, No Job too Big  
Gutters Cleaned From £15  
Small Repairs From £15  
Pointing Work From £15  
**WILL BEAT ANY GENUINE QUOTE**  
**SPECIAL OFFERS**  
on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters, New Roofs/Slate Tile & Felt and Garage Roofs.  
- Rubberised flat roofing  
- Flat roof specialist  
- Insurance work undertaken  
- Est 25 years  
- Discounted for OAPs  
- Exterior Painting  
**FREE QUOTES AVAILABLE**



**Home: 01384 872276**  
**Mobile: 07584 081228**

**ELITE PLASTICS**  
Fascias • Soffits • Dry Verge  
Pointing • Gutter Cleaning And Repair  
Premium Products Expertly Fitted With Full Manufacture Guarantee.  
For A Free Quote call  
**01384 468831 / 07985 575865**  
www.eliteplasticsupvc.co.uk

**Local Specialists**

### Property Maintenance

**DLH Property Maintenance**  
Interior/Exterior Painting Decor  
Render/Repointing Brickwork  
GRP Flat Roof Fibre Glass Systems  
Jet Washing/Driveways/Patios, Re-Sanding/Sealing  
All General Property Maintenance Undertaken  
**FULLY Qualified FULLY Insured**  
Direct Line:  
**07788 628517**

### Tiling

**I.C.A. TILING SERVICES**  
Walls, floors, bathrooms, kitchens and conservatories.  
Ceramic, porcelain, mosaics, slate, marble and all natural stone.  
FULL BATHROOM INSTALLATION AVAILABLE  
Quality workmanship at competitive prices.  
Fully insured. Portfolio available.  
For a free quote call Ian on  
01384 412796 or 07890 894631



### Upholstery

**K S SERVICES**  
All types of General Repairs to your home and garden  
Also interior and exterior decorating  
Local Friendly Service  
**0121 532 4861**  
No Job Too Small

**JC RE-UPHOLSTERY SERVICES**  
Specialists in Re-upholstery, Repairs and Antiques  
CONTRACT & DOMESTIC  
No Job Too Small  
FREE ESTIMATES  
Choice of patterns  
Quality Workmanship  
in Blackheath  
0121 561 3977 daytime  
or 0121 561 2344 evenings after 6 pm

**Floor and Wall Tiling**  
Ceramic, Porcelain and Natural Stone  
Walls • Floors • Bathrooms • Kitchens • Conservatories  
All work undertaken • Call Tony for a free quote  
**0121 422 4116 / 07961 604632**

To advertise your business and reach more than 46,000 potential customers...

**1**

Call us on...  
**01902 319590**

**2**

E-mail us at...  
[mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk)

**3**

Post to...  
Mark Moore, Halesowen Chronicle, Black Country House, Rounds Green Road, Oldbury B69 2DG



**funeral directors**

**N.E.DOWNING**  
(Blackheath) Ltd

Independent family run Funeral Directors

24 hour service  
Halesowen  
0121 422 2794

[www.nedowning.co.uk](http://www.nedowning.co.uk)

**monumental masons**

**HALESTONE MEMORIALS**  
Modern and traditional memorials

Ring for FREE brochure  
**0121 550 4235**

Or visit our showroom at  
Somers Road,  
Halesowen B62 8EN

[www.halestonememorials.co.uk](http://www.halestonememorials.co.uk)

**1**

**Family**

**education & tuition**

ASD and EBD experienced graduate available for school support.  
07475 813731.

**elderly & disabled**

MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350 can deliver, servicing available. Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384 255019 / 07831 246292

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

**2**

**Leisure Time**

**caravans wanted**

**WANTED ALL CARAVANS**  
Any age or condition  
Also motorhomes wanted.  
**TOP PRICES PAID**  
Immediate collection.  
**CALL THOMAS**  
**07717 280 996**

**caravans / motorhomes**

**BARGAIN**

**CARAVAN EQUIPMENT**  
Dorema porch awning, 380cm x 240cm, as new, still boxed.  
Cost New £800 sell £595 ono.  
Two x 40 litre water butts. £20 each.  
One Wastemaster. £15.  
One Tow hitchlock. £20.  
Two inner tents £10 each.  
Two Folding metal chairs £7 each.  
All in good condition.  
**01902 783174.**

**WILLERBY STATIC CARAVAN**  
Mid Wales, D/G, C/H, 2 bedroom and 1 sofa bed. Large Decking area overlooking river.  
**£10,000 ono**  
**07855 483259.**

**We Want Your Motorhome**  
Finance Cleared  
Fast Secure Payment  
Top Prices Paid

Please Call  
AEG on 01384 848439 or  
Lee Jinks on 07740 895448  
[www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk](http://www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk)

**fishing**

FISHING TACKLE WANTED anything considered. New or Old  
01902 754011 or 07931 568716

**music shop**

VOCALIST REQUIRED  
FOR ROCK BLUES BAND.  
Wolverhampton area.  
07587 222729.

**sports & leisure**

THREE QUARTER ANTIQUE BURNINGS & WATTS SLATE SNOOKER TABLE.  
Excellent condition.  
Balls, Cue's inc. Buyer dismantles.  
**£400 ono.**  
**07463 213127.**

**holidays**

**caravan parks**

LUXURY HOLIDAY HOME for Sale on 5\* Park, DG, CH, bar & restaurant. Child & pet friendly. 20 acres walking woodland £24,995 inc 2017 site fees Call 01568 708 326.

**what's on**

**antique fairs**

**ANTIQUE/ COLLECTORS & VINTAGE FAIR**  
COPTHORNE HOTEL, LEVEL ST., MERRY HILL, DUDLEY, DYS 1UR  
SUNDAY 19TH FEBRUARY  
9AM - 4PM  
★ **07783 680 627** ★

**markets**

**BESCOT SUNDAY MARKET OPEN EVERY SUNDAY**  
Banks' Stadium, Walsall FC  
WS1 4SA. FREE PARKING. 39 M6  
07889 975701 All hard standing

**3**

**Home & Services**

**furniture**

CLOSE WOVEN Cane five piece conservatory furniture, very good condition, £300 ono. Must collect. 01902 470169.

MEMORY FOAM mattress, double, still wrapped, easy-care, sell £150 ono. 07521 857432.

OVAL ITALIAN dining table, 6 chairs, 2 are covers, £100. 01902 721494.

**THREE PIECE SUITE**  
Three-piece suite, beige, with matching footstool and cushions, 18 months old, excellent condition, was £1,900 new  
**£500 ono.**  
**07979 237096.**

**THREE SEATER plus 2 seater dark brown leather, good condition, £75.**  
01902 573623 or 07826 277844.

**THREE-PIECE SUITE, footstool, excellent condition, Italian top grade leather, Cream, New £350, accept £399 ono.** 01384 287461.

**household appliances**

SILVERLINE FRIDGE FREEZER  
Half and half, good working order  
£70. 07788 997604.

**items wanted**

ALL GOLD 9CT £300 PER OUNCE  
**CASH PAID TODAY**  
No amount is too small  
A GENUINE LADY BUYER  
All Jewellery • Costume Jewellery • Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings • ALL SILVER • All Oriental Items  
Pre 47 silver coins All war medals etc  
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING  
**01922 495066 or 07971 783206**  
A BEST CASH PRICE

**FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS**  
Any gauge or age  
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.  
01384 836219 / 07891 713547  
tetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

**WANTED**

ALL MILITARIA ITEMS FROM WARS  
Swords, medals, helmets etc, single or full items.  
German, Japanese, British.  
Will collect.  
Cash paid  
**07511 500337.**

**AUTO MEMORABILIA WANTED ALSO GARAGE CLEARANCES**  
old enamel signs, petrol cans, old jugs, classic car parts, bikes and motorbikes.  
Anything old.  
\*\* Top prices paid \*\*  
01384 836219 / 07891 713547

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

**specialists at your service**

**aerials**

**AA DIGITAL AERIALS**  
SATELLITE & CCTV  
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75  
Work Guaranteed  
01902 858191  
01384 429166  
01543 439095  
01922 716029  
07833 738857

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST  
CCTV cameras fitted/tv wallmount, free quote/any area. 07850 330251

**CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS**

"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call  
**01902 319 191**

**ClassifiedAds**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**alarms/security**

**PREMIER ALARMS**  
Supplied and Fitted £195  
Servicing and Repairs  
12 Months Warranty  
All areas covered  
All quotes beaten!  
**Call: 0121 601 9791**

**building services**

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS  
Over 35 years experience in the industry  
All aspects of building work including:  
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.  
Discounts offered.  
**01902 579592 / 07837 994465**

**SOLAR CONSTRUCTION**  
Building work, extensions, rendering, pointing, damp proofing, exterior paintings.  
New roofs, re-slates, fascias, soffits, guttering.  
ALL WORK FULLY INSURED AND GUARANTEED  
CALL FREEPHONE  
**0800 959 6376**

**building supplies**

QUALITY DOORS AND HARDWOOD FLOORING @ low prices.  
Call Arnold Laver 0121 533 5428.

**carpentry & joinery**

B & S JOINERY Six internal pre-primed doors fully fitted from £570.  
0121 5322672 or 07958 556225.

**fencing**

**CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS**

"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representative and I would recommend them to anyone!"  
Michael - Portway Fencing.

For great business results call  
**01902 319 191**

**ClassifiedAds**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**PORTWAY FENCING**  
SPECIAL OFFER  
6 x 5 Heavy Duty Iron Panels  
**£12.95 each**  
Fitting service available or DIY.  
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656  
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm  
Sat 8am - 12noon  
83 Portway Rd, W.bury  
DELIVERY AVAILABLE  
[www.portwayfencing.co.uk](http://www.portwayfencing.co.uk)

**gardening services**

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

**gas fitting**

READERS ARE ADVISED  
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.  
It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

**house clearances**

ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken.  
07852 172641 / 07710 360327

**plastering**

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING Services, Home/Garden Improvements, Mark or Sara: 07741 770897  
STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE Clean and Reliable. All Work Undertaken. All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07777 262943.

**removals**

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209 / 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.  
CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN. Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

**KT HOUSE REMOVALS**  
12 years experience.  
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS. LOCAL OR DISTANCE, FULLY INSURED.  
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:  
**07771 727119**

**roofing**

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

**skip hire**

**CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS**

"Thanks to our Classified advertising in the Express & Star we are really busy!"

It definitely works for us!"

Grinsells Skip Hire.

For great business results call  
**01902 319 191**

**ClassifiedAds**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE**  
Save \$\$\$  
All size skips and all areas covered  
Same day delivery faster than a phone call!!  
(Open 7 days a week)  
**07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56**

**t.v. / home entertainment**

**CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS**

"TV Link are really pleased with their response from their Classified Campaign"

Bill - TV Link

For great business results call  
**01902 319 191**

**ClassifiedAds**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**service**

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST  
Any TV Repairs, Plasma LED etc. CCTV cameras supplied & fitted. Any area. Free Estimates, 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation, Wall mounts/TV setups. 07850 330251.

**4**

**Pets & Animals**

**equestrian corner**

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.  
MEADOW HAY Small Sales, Home Farm, Himeley, DY3 4DE. Closed Sun/Mon. £4 (01384) 294877

**pets corner**

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer.  
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.  
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.  
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

**PIGEON LOFT FOR SALE**  
also widow hood boxes, loft size 10ft long 8ft wide.  
**£250 ono.**  
Buyer to dismantle.  
Phone after 6pm  
**01902 402713.**

**ROSEDENE RESCUE CENTRE**  
1, Radley Road, Rushall, Walsall, WS4 1LN.  
01922 627013.  
Open Monday to Saturday 11am - 5pm.  
Sundays - Bank Holidays 11am - 4pm.  
Takes in relinquished dogs from owners, all areas (if they are vet checked up to date with jabs).  
Donations of dog food, toys, bedding and vet bills always appreciated.

**STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER**  
pup, 9 months old, black and white, good pedigree, outdoor kennel and indoor cage, plus harness and leads included in price. Health problem forces sale. £300.  
07860 637814, 07503 689699.

**5**

**Business & Farming**

**business opportunities**

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

**6**

**Property**

**overseas property**

**properties wanted**

**WE PAY 100% of purchase price**  
**Sell your HOUSE - SIMPLE**  
You agree the price, we buy the house.  
● NO AGENTS FEES ● COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU  
● FREE SOLICITORS ● ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION  
**0800 999 999 6**  
or 01384 226086 x417 [www.black-country-homes.co.uk](http://www.black-country-homes.co.uk)

**CASH NOW**  
**FOR YOUR HOUSE**  
● Legal Fees Paid ● Guaranteed Offer ● We can buy your house in 2 days  
● No Fees ● Repossessions Stopped  
**0800 389 6788**  
01902 628047 Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week subject to terms

**Need to sell your home fast?**  
We can help you make a fresh start  
With solutions to suit...  
you can clear your debts and make a fresh start  
Purchase Agreed Within **7 DAYS**  
ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED  
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT  
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS  
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE  
LOCAL COMPANY

**MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS**  
WHY NOT CALL US TODAY  
for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?  
**0121 405 0797** OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7  
\*Terms and Conditions apply

**CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS**  
"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"  
Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer  
For great business results call  
**01902 319 191**  
**ClassifiedAds**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS**  
"We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates."  
Black Country Homes  
For great business results call  
**01902 319 191**  
**ClassifiedAds**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**Home Cash Buyer**  
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish  
**£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££**  
**Houses / Land Required**  
Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**  
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154  
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049  
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901  
[www.homecashbuyer.co.uk](http://www.homecashbuyer.co.uk)

**accommodation to let**

**NOTICE TO READERS** It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.  
01384 821363.  
NETHERTON AREA 3-bed house, DSS welcome, 30 plus, no pets, deposit required. 07780 704435.  
ONE BEDROOM flat, fully furnished, W4 area, no DSS. £450pcm excluding bills. 07533 749625.  
SMART ROOMS in shared house, Netherton, from £85 pwk Single. £95 pwk DBL inc bills. No DSS. 07970 717139 or 07940 116130.

**accommodation wanted**

**WANTED FOR RENT** caravan or mobile home, Wolverhampton area, single, working man. 07946 393591.  
HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.



**7**  
Jobs

**courses**

**BIRMINGHAM: 21-22 JUNE**  
**WOLVERHAMPTON: 15-16 JULY**

Accredited  
**ocn**  
Training

**Learn how to take blood  
TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST**

**NATIONALLY RECOGNISED AND ACCREDITED  
Introduction to Phlebotomy  
TWO DAY COURSE - National UK Qualification**

**NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED**

More info  
or to book: **www.geopace.com**

HIGH DEMAND IN: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - Community - MOD

**8**  
Motoring

**cars under £1500**

**ADVERTISERS ARE  
REMINDED**  
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

**1ST TO SEE  
WILL BUY**

**FIAT PUNTO**  
2006.  
81,000 miles.  
12 months MoT.  
Very tidy.  
Drives brilliant.  
**£875 ono.**  
**07970 174138.**



**KIA RIO**  
2004. 44,000 miles. 5dr. Silver. ABS. Air Con. Long MoT. PAS. Stereo. CD. Recent cam belt change. Drives lovely, cheap to run, Reliable.  
**£900 ono.**  
**07462 766144.**

**MUST BE SEEN**

**MINI ONE**  
03 reg, full MoT, FSH,  
1 owner,  
excellent condition,  
black  
**£1,200.**  
**01384 440258.**

**IDEAL  
FIRST CAR**

**NISSAN MICRA**

3 dr hatchback, 1.0, MoT, clean and tidy, radio, driveaway.

**£295 ono**

**07884 932636.**

**BARGAIN**

**NISSAN PRIMERA**

**1.8 PETROL**  
1999 V Reg.  
8 months MoT.  
Good condition.

**£250 ono.**

**07837 528789.**

Call between 8am - 8pm.



**GOOD RUNNER**

**VW GOLF**

Black, 03 reg, 1.6 petrol, 5dr hatchback, 3 owners, MoT till October 1, 2017.

Good condition.

**£700.**

**07845 035736.**

**MUST BE SEEN**

**VW POLO 1400**

Full MoT, silver, good runner / condition inside and out, radio/CD, alloys.

**£675 ono.**

**01902 862610.**

**cars over £1500**



**AUDI A6 1.9 TDi ESTATE**

Diesel, 03 reg  
CXX in crystal blue metallic.  
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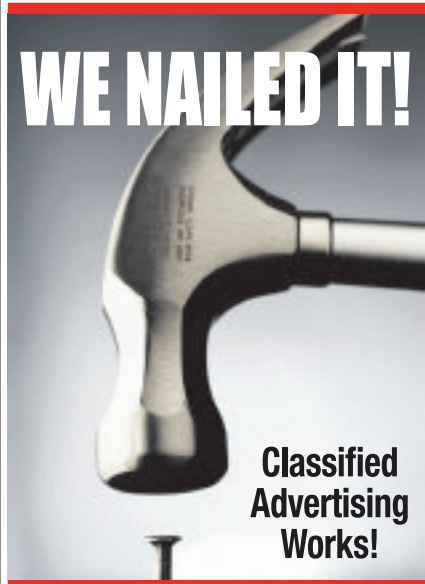


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# Don't underrate the new Mazda3

By James Fosdyke

**On the face of it, the 2017 Mazda3 is no different to the 2016 model. From almost every angle, it's absolutely identical, but look closely and you'll find a handful of incredibly minor modifications.**

For example, the front fog lights are slightly different, and the badge on the front grille has been moved down a few centimetres. The interior has had similar treatment – there's a new centre console and a new steering wheel, but otherwise it's business as usual.

So why all the fuss? Well, because there have been some slightly more substantial changes made to the Golf rival's underpinnings.

G-Vectoring Control (GVC) – a system that improves front traction by braking and transferring weight onto the front wheels – has been taken from the new Mazda6, while the diesel engines have been tweaked to make them more responsive and more refined. Mazda anoraks may well notice the 3's new clothes, but the average punter won't. There's nothing wrong with being identical to the old version, though, because it was a very pretty car – particularly in four-door Fastback guise.

Yes, Mazda made a questionable call when it gave its design language the moniker of 'Kodo Soul of Motion' but the application is spot on. It's beautifully judged, so no detractors can label it either too bland or too fussy, and there's just enough brightwork to lift the darker colours without coming across as flashy or ostentatious.

The interior has struck the same balance, although the improvements are more



There's 364 litres of luggage space

noticeable. The new steering wheel is slightly less of a button-fest, and the new centre console is a vast improvement in quality.

Because the new Mazda3's basic structure is unchanged, the practicality has also gone unaltered. As before, it will still cope with 364 litres' worth of luggage and there's plenty of space to seat four adults in relative comfort.

Opt for the Fastback, however, and you'll get even more boot space, with 419 litres available. You do pay a price for this extra volume, though, because you lose a little headroom and the boot is a less useful shape.

Mazda may have done more to the 3's oily bits than its bodywork, but whether you'd spot the difference from the driving seat is debateable. The 3 was always a great car to drive, and around town or on the motorway it feels more or less identical. Those with attuned ears might notice that the diesel engines are marginally less gravelly than before, but otherwise it's the same



From almost every angle, it looks identical but look closer and there are modifications

comfortable, efficient, well-sorted machine it always was. If you put your foot down, though, you will notice the GVC's influence. You don't feel the nose dive as the car applies the brakes on the corner entry, but you can feel a slight slowing and the front tyres biting the tarmac more than they would have in the previous model. It's amazingly effective.

This impression is further aided by the steering, which is precise without being too

heavy, and the gearbox, which is almost unbelievably slick.

Prices start at £17,595, and for that you get the entry-level 2.0-litre petrol engine with 118bhp. Opting for the four-door Fastback will set you back at least £19,695. Diesel engines carry a premium, too, with the 103bhp 1.5-litre engine found in our test car costing £1,500 more than the more powerful 2.0-litre petrol engine. It's more efficient, though, managing

74.3mpg on the official cycle, so it'll be the choice engine for those doing high mileages.

Arguably best balance of power and economy can be found in the flagship 148bhp 2.2-litre diesel. It's only offered in mid- and top-spec cars, so it comes with a £22,000 asking price, but its 7.9-second 0-60mph time and 68.9mpg economy make it tempting.

The Mazda3 is, in many ways, underrated. It's as good a car as the Ford Focus,

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Poring over the sporting hall of fame at Aldersley Village



Marking 60 years of service to sport in the city



Peter Holmes with Wolverhampton Swimming Club chairman Peter Dale

# No slowing down as Peter homes in on 85th

WITH his 85th birthday on the horizon you would think Peter Holmes would be happy to sit back and reflect on a life of achievement.

But no. He is on a mission to highlight all that is good about sport in Wolverhampton and more importantly to urge people, young and old, to get active.

Born and bred in Wolverhampton, Holmes has dedicated his life to sport through his work for the city council and is a well known and hugely respected figure in the West Midlands and beyond.

He celebrated 70 years with Wolverhampton Swimming Club last year and has clocked up more than 60 years as a member of Penn Golf Club.

He has served the Staffordshire Swimming Association for 56 years, worked for Sport England, been president of the West Midlands ASA and is still involved with the governing body of swimming.

## Honoured

In addition, he was one of the driving forces behind the creation of the annual Wolverhampton Sports Council Advisory awards – where the borough's unsung grassroots heroes are honoured.

Having also represented Great Britain at water polo, his contribution to sport has been honoured with an MBE.

Another one of Holmes's ventures has been the creation of a Wolverhampton Sporting Hall of Fame with an honour board on display at Aldersley Stadium.

His knowledge of Wolverhampton sports stars is astounding. In fact, Holmes has written the citations for each and every member of the Hall of Fame.

"I have always loved sport," he said, from the comfort of his home just a few furlongs away from Wolverhampton racecourse. "Swimming, tennis, golf... most sports. And I am a firm believer that we can

## SPORTING FEATURE

By Nick Elwell

**"I am a firm believer that we can motivate not only youngsters but some of the older population to get involved in sport."**

motivate not only youngsters but some of the older population to get involved in sport."

Holmes has certainly had his fair share of involvement, starting at the age of 16 with a trip across war-torn Europe to play water polo for GB.

"I went on tour with Great Britain in 1948," he recalls. "We played Holland, France and Belgium."

"We had a lecture from the Home Office on travelling. We went across by ferry. It was quite amazing."

He also enjoyed his 15 minutes of fame on national TV. "In the early days of water polo there was the no moving rule and we played two halves," he said.

"Then in 1950 they brought in what was known as the South American rules, where you could move all over and water polo was played in four quarters."

"I played in the first televised event of that, which, would you believe took place at Thimblemill Lane in Smethwick. It was demonstration game, two select sides by invitation and it was on BBC."

After ending his water polo-playing days in his late 20s, Holmes channelled his efforts into promoting sport through his job with the sports council and before that the central council of physical recreation

at Wolverhampton Council. Along with director of education Dennis Grayson and a PE adviser named Trevor Churchill, Holmes saw a number of satellite sports centres built in the area which gave youngsters the chance to sample various recreational activities.

"Compton Park was the first one in 1971, the second one to open was Colton Hills, then Aldersley School was built, then Northcote," he recalls.

"On a Sunday everything was closed, there were no swimming pools open after 11am."

"Compton Park was the first swimming pool to open all day on a Sunday. That was quite amazing and we were surprised at how the public used it."

Holmes was also a driving force behind the Black Country Games, a concept that saw youngsters from across the region compete in a host of sports, with the Fair Play Award named in his honour.

## Highlights

Hosting a sports day with Sir Bobby Charlton and helping former prime minister John Major with a query surrounding his father – "he played water polo for Walsall and I was able to give him some information about when he played, and he very kindly sent me a thank you letter," recalled Holmes – are two other highlights from a bank of wonderful memories.

And then there was that day at Buckingham Palace, accompanied by his wife of 60 years Margaret, his son Phillip and daughter Michaela, when he was presented with his MBE by Prince Charles.

Holmes is now currently putting the final touches to the shortlist for this year's Hall of Fame inductees.

But he is just as keen to see the grassroots heroes step into the spotlight – hence the birth of the Sports Council Advisory awards. "My aim is to make sure these people are recognised," he said "For years they had not been recognised but without all the wonderful people at grassroots level we wouldn't have people excelling on the international stage."



Peter Holmes is made an MBE by Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace



Wolverhampton and Heath Town swimming club members in 1948. Peter Holmes is back row, third from right



Sebastian Coe signs a book for Peter Holmes on opening the Aldersley Leisure Centre track



# Sport

Royal recognition for a life dedicated to sport

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## Glassboys sick of the Gingerbreads

**Grantham Town 2 Stourbridge 1**  
STOURBRIDGE boss Gary Hackett paid tribute to promotion rivals Grantham despite feeling as sick as his centre-half following Saturday's setback.

New recruit Richard Sho-Silva, signed from Kidderminster Harriers on Friday, lasted little more than half an hour in Lincolnshire before falling ill.

Darryl Westlake shifted across to become club captain Stuart Pierpoint's fifth partner at the heart of the Glassboys defence inside three matches.

The Glassboys themselves must be sick of the Gingerbreads following a recent 4-1 league cup defeat.

Hackett said: "It is very difficult. Unfortunately Richard had an upset stomach and had to come off. It has been difficult for Stuart. He was probably our best player on the day but looking at it, while it wasn't emphatic, Grantham deserved to win."

In-form Gingerbreads striker Lee Shaw blasted home a right-wing cross to separate the sides two minutes into the second half. Felipe Barcelos, who netted a hat-trick the last time these sides met, crossed for Harry Clifton to volley home in the 65th minute to ensure the hosts went a 16th match without defeat.

Stour substitute Jake Heath's scrambled goal in injury time proved too late to instigate a fightback.

"You can see why they have had such a long unbeaten run," added Hackett. "They have some very fit lads who played with a lot of confidence while we were not at our best. It was a scruffy game."

Meanwhile, Hackett refused to rule out further signings despite a recent flurry of recruits.

"We've had to be busy, we've been a victim of our own success," he said.

"There may be more to come over the next week but we will have to see."

## Batsman hits four boundaries in one over – by George!

GEORGE Roberts hit six 4s in one over in an unbeaten 25 as Enville beat Hagley B in the Kinver Indoor Cricket League.

Enville posted 120-2 – the highest total in the opening two weeks of the season – with Jono Howells and Jay Willis also getting in to the 20s. Enville won by 34 runs after bowling out newcomers Hagley B for just 86.

Hagley never recovered from losing two wickets in the opening over. Only Rob Hancock (28), showed any resistance.

Hagley A enjoyed a nail-biting win, chasing down Pedmore's 117-5 to win by four wickets in the final over.

Pedmore, batting first, lost opener Dave Skelding in the second over, but Dan Jones (36) and John Herdman (25) took the score along, helped by a number of wides, and the remaining batsmen chipped in for a respectable total.

Hagley A lost opener Mike Stead in the first over, but captain Paul Morgan joined Joe Lennon and they set about the chase. With eight runs needed from the last over, Hagley reached the total with just two balls to spare.

## Valentine tournament thriller and chiller



Finalists Oli McNeillis, Lynn Lewis, Pam Cartwright, Richard Davies

WOLLASTON Lawn Tennis Club members were out in force as they braved the elements for their 2017 Valentine's Day Tournament.

A record total of 32 members took part in Saturday's tournament, with three hours of continuous play taking place on all eight courts at the Prestwood Drive club.

Despite light snow, drizzle, and chilly temperatures during the tournament, the Wollaston members all wrapped up and competed hard in this popular annual club event.

The tournament saw pairs competing in four separate groups of 'round robin' preliminary rounds with the winners of each group going through to the semi finals.

At this stage a plate tournament was also run.

The main tournament was won by Oli McNeillis and Lynn Lewis who overcame Richard Davies and Pam Cartwright in a match of high quality tennis – but not without going to a tie break decider.

The Plate tournament, also a close

contest, saw Wollaston Men's Captain Alan Hughes and Hannah Didlock win the final against Colin Brown and Vicki Simpson.

Chairman John Cutler said "We have now run the Valentine's Day tournament for the last two years and it has proved to be really successful, hence running it again this year."

"Despite the recent February chilly weather, it was therefore great to see the tournament effectively over subscribed and over three hours competition tennis so early in the season."

## Runners avoid drop in some style

IT was the moment of truth, at least for the male athletes from Dudley King-swinford Running Club, as they won their battle against relegation from the second division of the Birmingham Cross Country League.

Going into the final fixture in 14th place in the league, fourth from bottom, they needed another solid performance, at least better than Amazing Feet in 15th place, to prevent the trap door opening beneath them.

Stuart Perkins was first back for DK in 52nd place in 41.59 at Coventry's six and a half mile Coundon Park test.

Rich Bate came home in 43.08 to take 74th place, Darrian Bishop was 92nd in 44.02, Simon Hughes finished in 96th in 44.18, Rob Sannwald was 125th in 45.41 despite struggling with a knee injury.

Simon Blizzard completed the A team scorers in 134th in 46.18, the first six scorers totalling their best of the season with 579 points. Mark Homer was seventh back for the club in 135th place in 46.24, Kevin Duckworth finished in 156th in 47.55 nursing a damaged hamstring, Steve Parr was 189th in 50.18, Andrew Weaver was 199th in 51.06, Richard Jones was 213th in 52.22 and Rory Campbell at 215th in 53.00. DK maintained 14th place with a comfortable gap between them and the three relegated teams, Amazing Feet, Sparkhill Harriers and Staffordshire Moorlands.

The ladies were down the road in Warwick to complete their season but missing some of their regular scorers. On a bleak afternoon Karen Doy was first over the line for DK in 69th place in 27.59 just holding off Hannah McGuire who finished a place and a single second behind, Jacqui Elson-Whittaker was 112th in 30.22, Jane Campbell and Lucy Elwell had an epic battle finishing with the same time of 32.29 in 143rd and 144th respectively.

## Win on the road against bottom club

**Skelmersdale Unt 1 Halesowen Tn 2**  
DEPLETED Yeltz got a valuable, and deserved, three points against the Evo-Stik Premier's bottom side.

Yeltz went close twice through Tristan Dunkley, Danny Bragoli and Ben Clarke but it was not until the second half that Halesowen made the breakthrough when Liam Slade headed home from a free-kick on 58 minutes.

Ethan Delaney slotted home the second on 77 minutes to seemingly put the issue beyond doubt but Daniel Platt had to tip a shot on to the bar and Dean Shacklock bagged a consolation two minutes from time.

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# SKY'S NO LIMIT FOR WELBORN

**ROWLEY Regis' Jason Welborn is going back to the big time after securing a spot on a Sky Sports televised show.**

He will support Anthony Crolla's WBA world lightweight title rematch against Jorge Linares at the Manchester Arena on March 25.



Jason Welborn takes on the champ in his home city

Welborn will get his own title tilt on Eddie Hearn's Matchroom Boxing promoted bill, too, as he goes after the WBC International Silver crown at middleweight.

The two-weight former Midlands champion will also be looking to make a dent in the unblemished record of opponent Marcus Morrison, who holds the belt.

The hometown hero, 23, who will fight in front of his

Manchester fans, has reeled off 14 wins from the same number of professional contests.

Morrison has proved powerful with a host of early finishes, including seven in the first round, and is trained by Joe Gallagher.

Welborn hasn't featured in front of Sky Sports cameras since he valiantly went down on points to three-time world title challenger Matthew Macklin for a WBC International strap in October 2015 at the Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham. That went the full 10 rounds, despite some expecting Welborn to be cannon fodder.

Welborn has since lost his Midlands super welter honours to Craig Cunningham and joined up with Macklin, signing up with his MTK Birmingham stable. The 30-year-old, in his 11th year as a pro, has also challenged for the British title at welter and super welter. He has 20 wins from 26.

Tickets are available at £40 to £150 from www.manchester-arena.com or on 0844 8478000.

## School's goal to roll out sport



Luqmaan Hammaad, aged 12, with goalball coach Faye Dale and player Caleb Nanevie

A SCHOOL is looking to add the Paralympic game of goalball to its provision, after a Team GB coach and player dropped in to raise awareness of the sport.

Pedmore Technology College and Community School welcomed head coach for the men's Paralympic team, Faye Dale, and team member Caleb Nanevie, for a special sports class with their year eight students.

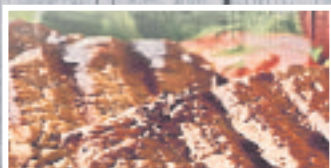
The visit was arranged by teaching assistant Ceri Preston, who wanted to help visually impaired 12-year-old student Luqmaan Hammaad. Through the sport the school also hopes to spread understanding of disabled sports among all of its pupils. The day proved a suc-

cess, with Luqmaan enjoying the opportunity to play alongside his fellow students.

Goalball was invented in 1946 to help rehabilitate veterans who had lost their sight during the Second World War. The school is now looking into getting permanent equipment so it can add the sport to its provision.

Faye said: "It's amazing to come to a school that has such good support for visually impaired students and is passionate about ensuring all their students have full opportunity to sporting activities."

Headteacher Gareth Lloyd said: "We are honoured to have Faye and Caleb support us to bring in this new sport to the school."



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